FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 017 *25 January 1985*

ARGENTINA

Alfonsin Visits India, Meets With Rajiv Gandhi B 1
[cross-reference]
Reaction to Chile-UK 'Secret Accord' on Falklands B 1
Foreign Ministry Communique B 1
Official on Report's Effect B 1
Vice President Comments B 2
Senator Gass Remarks B 2
Chilean Embassy Communique B 3
Defense Ministry General Directors Appointed B 4
Army Detachment Returns From Antarctic Mission B 4
CGT, Business Prepare Alternate Economic Plan B 4
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 24 Jan]

BOLIVIA

Three Former Officers Arrested in Spain C 1
Siles Says Elections To Be Held on Schedule C 1
Five Parties Register for June Elections C 1
[PRESENICA 20 Jan]
U.S. State Department 'Misinformed' on Drug War C 2
COB 'To Confront' Government Economic Policy C 2

BRAZIL

Figueiredo Recovery Termed Satisfactory D 1
President-elect Not Seeking U.S. 'Sympathy' D 1
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 24 Jan]
Tancredo Neves Discusses Country's Gains, Future D 1
[Paris LE MONDE 17 Jan]
President-elect Neves Begins Visit to Rome [cross-reference] D 3

CHILE

'Secret Agreement' With UK on Falklands Reported E 1
Foreign Ministry Denial E 1
Pinochet Sends Congratulatory Message to Reagan E 2
U.S. Congressmen Visit, Suggest Aid Cut E 2
Jarpa Comments E 2
Police Discover International Cocaine Ring E 3

COLOMBIA

Betancur Wishes Reagan Success in New Term F 1
Briefs: Betancur Receives Iranian Ambassador F 1

PERU

Human Rights Organizations Report 6,000 Missing J 1
Communique Asserts 'Full Respect for Human Rights' J 1
Minister Requests Revision of USSR Fishing Accord J 2
Argentina To Refinance Nuclear Project J 2

URUGUAY

Postal Workers, University Professors Strike K 1
Government Suspends Further Sugar Imports K 1
Seregni: Broad Front Unlikely To Accept Any Ministry K 1
Briefs: New Generals K 1

VENEZUELA

Lusinchi Congratulates Brazil's President-elect L 1
[EL NACIONAL 17 Jan]
COPEI Leader Criticizes Government, 'False Hopes' L 1
[EL NACIONAL 13 Jan]

MEXICO

Foreign Secretary on Contadora, Other Issues M 1
[EXCELSIOR 19 Jan]
President De la Madrid Meets Spain's Gonzalez [cross-reference] M 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Further on Talks With Guatemala, UK Defense Pact P 1
Prime Minister Discusses Students in Cuba P 1
[SUNDAY TIMES 13 Jan]

COSTA RICA

Gutierrez on Nicaraguan Amnesty, Contra Claims P 2
FRG Mediation Offer P 2
Central Bank Official on $300 Million Owed to Country P 3
[LA PRENSA LIBRE 19 Jan]

EL SALVADOR

Two Explosions Heard in San Salvador 24 Jan P 3
Police Deny Deactivating Bombs P 3
Army Says Rebels Dislodged From Morazan Villages P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 21 Jan]
Radio Venceremos Says 'Torola V' Operation Fails P 4
Government Forces Suffer 124 Casualties in 10 Days [Venceremos] P 5
Venceremos Claims Power of Right Wing Growing P 5

GUATEMALA

Relatives of Missing Persons Demonstrate P 6
EGP Commander Discusses Actions, Progress P 7
[Mexico City EL DIA 21 Jan]
URNG Claims Guerrillas Occupy Four Towns P 8
[PRENSA LIBRE 22 Jan]
11 Killed, 5 Wounded in Army-Guerrilla Clashes P 8

HONDURAS

Editorial Questions Foreign Policy's Consistency P 9
[LA PRENSA 17 Jan]
Briefs: Spanish, British Ambassadors P 10

NICARAGUA

Iranian Prime Minister Continues Visit P 10
Meets With Ramirez [IRNA] P 10
Discusses Military Situation [IRNA] P 10
FRG's Moellemann Meets Government, Opposition P 11
Holds Press Conference P 12
U.S. Citizens Demonstrate in Front of Embassy P 12
Commander Torres Discusses 1985 Defense Tasks P 12
[BARRICADA 23 Jan]
Tirado Views Military, Economic Policy P 14
[BARRICADA 17 Jan]
Msgr Vega Praises Promulgation of Amnesty Law P 14
Msgr Vega Discusses Human Rights, Arms Buildup P 15
[LA PRENSA 21 Jan]
Parties Call for Resumption of Dialogue P 16
[LA PRENSA 20 Jan]
PSN's Sanchez on Importance of National Dialogue P 17
[LA PRENSA 22 Jan]
Assembly President Appoints Work Commissions P 18
[BARRICADA 23 Jan]
PLI's Godoy, PCDN's Espinosa Sworn in as Deputies P 19
Misurasata Leaders Say Rivera Expulsion 'Plot' P 20
[San Jose Radio Reloj]
Pastora Leaves for U.S.; Meetings Planned [ACAN] P 20

CUBA

'Our America' Says Area Fears Sandinist Example Q 1
Commentary on Honduras as Americas School Site Q 2
'Our America' Terms Chilean Regime 'Repressive' Q 3
Flavio Bravo Meets With Britain's Temple Morris Q 4
Foreign Trade Minister Cabrisas Visits Moscow [cross-reference] Q 4
Education Minister Fernandez Visits Hungary [cross-reference] Q 4
Mella Medal Bestowed on Czechoslovak Official Q 4
New Trade Protocol Signed With Bulgaria Q 4
Uruguayan Communist Leader on Castro Speech Q 5
Brazilian Businessmen Want To Reestablish Trade Q 5
Del Valle Announces Infant Mortality Rate Drop Q 5
Garcia Frias Presides Over Economic Meeting Q 6
Commentary Praises Economic Development Plan Q 6
UJC National Committee Sixth Plenum Closes Q 7
Light Industry Exports To Increase by 4 Percent Q 8
Briefs: New Sierra Leonean Ambassador Q 8

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Announces Fuel Prices Increase R 1
Education Minister on IMF Standby Accord R 1

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

Foreign Debt Reaches $365.5 Million in Nov 84 S 1

DOMINICA

Agriculture Minister on Banana Industry Problems S 1
Matthew Joseph Named Opposition Leader S 2

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Netherlands Government Calls for Wage Decrease S 2

GUYANA

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba T 1
Over 1,000 Return After Deportation by Suriname T 1
Finance Minister Discusses Problems With IMF T 1

SURINAME

Opposition Leader Reports $1 Million Arms Deal U 1
[Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD 8 Jan]
Guyanese Among 5,000 Illegal Aliens Deported U 1

ALFONSIN VISITS INDIA, MEETS WITH RAJIV GANDHI

For Indian source reportage concerning Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's visit to India and his meetings with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Indian President Giani Zail Singh, see the 24 January South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

REACTION TO CHILE-UK 'SECRET ACCORD' ON FALKLANDS

Foreign Ministry Communique

PY250010 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2345 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Bueons Aires, 24 Jan (NA) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry today stated that reports from the United Kingdom concerning an alleged accord between Chile and Great Britain during the Malvinas War seek to "jeopardize" Argentine-Chilean relations "at the very time when the honorable Senate of the nation is about to begin discussing the peace and friendship treaty," and that the "responsibility for such reports rests exclusively with those who issue them." Here is the text of the Foreign Ministry communique:

In view of press reports initially carried by British news sources concerning an alleged secret accord between Chile and Great Britain during the Malvinas conflict, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship deems it appropriate to point out that the responsibility for such reports rests exclusively with those who issue them. Once again British news sources have carried reports of this nature which seek to jeopardize Argentine-Chilean relations at the very time when the honorable Senate of the nation is about to begin discussing the peace and friendship treaty which the two countries signed on 29 November 1984.

Official on Report's Effect

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1932 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (NA) -- A high-ranking source at the Argentine Foreign Ministry has stated that the reports on an alleged agreement between the United Kingdom and Chile during the war over the Malvinas, instead of harming the Argentine-Chilean integration process, as is the goal of "extracontinental interests," has had "a boomerang effect, showing us Argentines once again the need to end, once and for all, one of the two conflicts" in the southern region.

The source, questioned by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, maintained that "the reports on the alleged agreement obviously are intended to damage Argentine-Chilean relations" and stated that "it will not achieve its objective because the two countries, on either side of the Andes, are convinced of the need for a detente." The source thus denied press reports from abroad that state that Chile granted aid to Great Britain during the war in exchange for fighters, among other things.

The source pointed out that detente is as necessary for Buenos Aires as it is for Santiago, noting that with the Beagle treaty, "Chile has obtained a sort of opening to the international community through Argentina." He also said that now Chile, with the democratization of Uruguay and Brazil, "has become a sort of South Africa in South America, needing to improve its relations abroad."

The source then recalled that other rumors on the alleged Chilean aid to Great Britain had been spread before and asserted that "that is something which belongs in the past, showing that one must not maintain two conflicts at the same time." He was referring to the Beagle Channel and Malvinas conflict.

The Foreign Ministry source said that if this report has some influence on the senators, "at the most would only cause a tie which would have to be resolved by Vice President Victor Martinez." The source also criticizes Elias Sapag, Neuquen senator, for trying to support the agreement by "abstaining, since you either approve or reject an agreement; there are no other alternatives." In this regard the source recalled that in addition to the votes of the Radical senators, even with the possible abstention of Luis Leon, "we would have the support of the representatives of Corrientes, and probably some from the Chaco, La Rioja, Salta, and Formosa."

Vice President Comments

PY241832 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1655 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (NA) -- Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez today admitted that press reports about the existence of an agreement between Great Britain and Chile during the Malvinas war "may be true," but nonetheless he said that this is a subject "that must be discussed extensively."

He rejected the idea that this alleged agreement may influence congressional approval of the peace agreement with Chile [over the Beagle issue].

In addition, Martinez confirmed that Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves will pay a 24-hour visit to Argentina and that during his stay he will meet with President Raul Alfonsin at the Olivos presidential residence.

Asked whether the British and the Chileans did indeed have an agreement during the South Atlantic war, Martinez said that "we have no confirmation of this," but he admitted that "it may be true." He added: "At any rate, this is an issue that must be studied extensively."

Martinez noted: "We had a conflict with Chile, but we still have a conflict over the Malvinas Islands." He added: "We have overcome the conflict with Chile, but we are still calling in international forums for support of our sovereign rights." He said that "if this did indeed occur, it will have to studied, but within the framework of the solution to the conflict with Chile, with which we have had no conflicts since the resolution of the dispute over the Beagle."

Asked if the press report published in London may harm the discussion of the Beagle peace treaty in Congress, Martinez said: "Not at all, since first we will have to study the case in detail and within the proper framework, and second because the Beagle is an old problem that is part of history since it has already been overcome."

Senator Gass Remarks

PY241512 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1347 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (DYN) -- Federal Senator Adolfo Gass today said that the reports published by several Buenos Aires morning papers on the close cooperation between Chile and Great Britain during the South Atlantic conflict "are nothing new because we were aware of it." He added that this occurred because of the "confrontation" that Argentina had been maintaining with its neighbor.

Gass, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, recalled that during the war a British helicopter crashed inside Chilean territory and that a few days later its crew members were seen walking the streets of Santiago. "We never thought it was an accident," he said.

In comment to Radio Continental, Gass pointed out that "it was evident that there were very good relations between the governments of Augusto Pinochet and the British."

The report, originally published by the London magazine NEW STATESMAN and carried today under banner headlines by Buenos Aires newspapers, said that "during the Malvinas war British planes camouflaged with Chilean emblems were deployed in southern Chile within a striking distance of less than 1 hour of Argentine bases." It added that "in Punta Arenas (a southern Chilean city), Chilean military officers decoded Argentine secret codes and passed the information ot to the British." It stated that "among other things, in return Chile obtained war planes and British support to frustrate the UN efforts to investigate human rights violations in Chile."

Gass said that the publication of this report "will be a positive step" because "those who do not want us to unite with Chile and those who want us to continue to confront each other will now see the importance of the treaty signed with the Chilean Government. This will show that if we do not unite, our security will always be in danger."

The legislator added: "At any rate, I am certain that among those who opposed the signing of the agreement, there will be some who will say that they view Chileans as enemies of the nation."

Gass said that he believes that "when the Chilean people learn about the Chilean-British cooperation, they will oppose the government." He said this in reference to the "negotiations we have held with Chilean political leaders."

Asked about the impact that this news will have in the relations of the southern cone countries, Gass noted that "we should talk about the relations between Argentina and the (Augusto) Pinochet government." Gass noted: "The Chilean president is on the way out, and this incident will worsen his public image in Chile even more."

Chilean Embassy Communique

PY250200 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires made public today a denial from the Foreign Ministry of that country regarding an alleged secret British-Chilean understanding during the Malvinas war in 1982.

The communique says: The Foreign Ministry of Chile emphatically denies as being totally false a report made in the British NEW STATESMEN magazine that there had been a secret understanding between Great Britain and Chile during the Malvinas war. As it has done in the past in the face of similar falsehoods, the Government of Chile asserts that, in adherence with principles of international law, it has a long diplomatic tradition of not interfering in the internal affairs of other states. The Government of Chile maintained absolute neutrality in that conflict, although recognizing the Argentine rights over the Malvinas Islands. The Chilean Government has noticed the existence of self-serving parties which periodically attempt to create problems between Latin American countries every time that new steps are taken in favor of a policy of peace and integration in the continent.

DEFENSE MINISTRY GENERAL DIRECTORS APPOINTED

PY222335 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jan (NA) -- The national executive branch today appointed six general directors of the Defense Ministry. The list includes two retired military officers and four civilians.

Decree No 92 is signed by President Raul Alfonsin and Minister of Public Works and Services Roque Carranza, who is acting for Defense Minister Raul Borras who is recovering from surgery. According to this official decree, Rear Admiral Fernando Vazquez Maiztequi, retired, will be director for human resources; Julio de Orue for logistics; Colonel Antonio Moreno, retired, for planning; Hector Mendez di Leo for policy; Carlos Borghini for organization and personnel; and Horacio Goedt for legal affairs.
As a result of the appointment, the executive structure of the Defense Ministry, which was approved at the end of last year, has been completed, the only vacant position being that of secretary for finance and budget control.

ARMY DETACHMENT RETURNS FROM ANTARCTIC MISSION

PY241432 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0448 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM) -- In a communique released today, the Army reported that the Army detachment in charge of the 1984 Antarctic campaign returned to Buenos Aires on 18 January and that the various tasks it undertook at the Esperanza base have strengthened our unquestionable sovereign rights in the continent. According to the communique, the most important tasks were: improvement of the Sargento Cabral Fort infrastructure with a view toward the development of the future Antarctic city; erection of an antenna to serve satellite communications with the mainland; operation of LRA 36 Radio Nacional Arcangel San Gabriel, which is beamed to the entire national territory; patrolling the continent and the frozen seas from Esperanza base to Matienzo base; deploying missions to resupply shelters, update topographic data, and establish land routes; and launching coastal reconnaissance missions. The communique stated that the detachment was made up of 50 people, including officers and noncommissioned officers and their wives and children, and that it fulfilled the objectives set by the national government, proudly maintaining the traditional Argentine presence in that continent and strengthening our unquestionalbe sovereign rights.

CGT, BUSINESS PREPARE ALTERNATE ECONOMIC PLAN

PY242135 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jan 85 p 7

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) Business and the Unified CGT [General Confederation of Labor] last night neared an agreement to present a joint 20-point economic plan at today's socio-economic contract talks. The CGT directive council accepted the 20-point plan on the condition that modifications be made in the part dealing with the issue of workers' social benefit funds, Power Workers' Federation Secretary-General Aldo Serrano reported. Serrano added, though, that the final decision to sign the plan would be left to the four national CGT secretaries-general, who are to meet with business representatives just before this afternoon's contract talks. Business must first agree to the modifications before both sides sign the alternative plan. If an agreement is reached, the joint proposal is to be presented to Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli at the talks, as an alternative to the five-year economic plan unveiled by the government on January 7. Earlier, CGT Secretary-General Jorge Triaca reported differences with business on the funds issue. "We want the exclusivity (of administering the funds)...and there are sectors who I don't want to identify who think that there should be some type of sharing among everybody." Though Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) Chairman Roberto Favelevic tried to play down the differences he suggested that the "details" of who administers the funds be "discussed during the collective wage bargaining" talks.

THREE FORMER OFFICERS ARRESTED IN SPAIN

PY242130 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Three subversives have been arrested in Spain and a fourth has been granted political asylum in Paraguay. This information was received by telex from Albacete, Spain, and Asuncion, Paraguay. The first item reports on the arrest in [name indistinct] of three former Bolivian officers who were involved in the kidnapping of the president on 30 June 1984. The items says that the three former officers, part of a group of five, are under arrest as a result of the disappearance of the other two. Colonels German Linares and Pablo Vargas disappeared from the hotel where they were staying to secretly enter Bolivia to promote a subversive movement. The other three are Captains Rafael Vargas and Carlos Barriga, and Lieutenant Celso Camps. Interpol reported that the two former officers left Albacete for Bonn and then for Bolivia.

SILES SAYS ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SCHEDULE

PY250214 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0027 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] La Pax, 24 Jan (EFE) -- Today President Hernan Siles Zuazo told the High Military Command that elections will be held as scheduled on 16 June. In view of press reports stating that elections could be postponed, the president ratified the government decision to call general elections in June, thus maintaining his public commitment. This information was disclosed by Armed Forces Commander General Simon Sejas Tordoya.

This afternoon, at the end of a meeting the military high command and military ministers held with President Siles, and before starting the first council of ministers meeting held in almost 2 months, General Tordoya said that the situation in all military units and garrisons is completely normal.

Additionally, Army Commander General Raul Lopez Leyton asserted in Cochabamba today that the Armed Forces are defending the current Bolivian democratic process. General Lopez Leyton, who replaced General Jose Olivis Arias, who rebelled against President Siles Zuazo on 29 December, stated that the Armed Forces have consistently demonstrated their support for democracy and respect for the national Constitution. When was asked about the government changes regarding coup attempts, General Lopez Leyton asserted that there is always talk about them but that the Armed Forces firmly defend the democratic process.

Today the Army commander presided over the swearing-in ceremony of General Pastor Meruvia, new commander of the Army 7th Division, headquartered, in Cochabama.

FIVE PARTIES REGISTER FOR JUNE ELECTIONS

PY250120 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Jan 85 p 4

[Excerpt] Five political parties have appeared before the National Electoral Court to register legally for the 16 June elections. They are: the Socialist Party, represented by several congressmen; the Socialist Labor Party; the Movement of the Revolutionary Left; the Tupaj Kutari Revolutionary Movement; and the Indian Party.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT 'MISINFORMED' ON DRUG WAR

PY182150 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Colonel Carlos Fernandez, head of the National Committee for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, today asserted that the committee has not given up the struggle against cocaine traffickers in Bolivia.

Panamericana yesterday provided an exclusive report to Bolivian listeners on the possibility of the U.S. Congress dictating the cancellation of all forms of aid to Bolivia as a result of its ineffective struggle against the drug trade.

Referring to this report, Col Fernandez said that the U.S. State Department has received distorted information on the subject because Bolivia is carrying out an arduous and unequaled struggle against the drug traffickers.

Indicating that important operations are being planned particularly in Cochabamba Department, he said:

[Begin recording] Well, at present we are not doing much because it is the rainy season, but nevertheless we are planning operations. We have (?halted) operations at the departmental and (?sectorial) levels and there have been some detentions. Furthermore, we are planning intense actions mainly in Cochabamba Department [word indistinct] that we will carry out after we obtain the necessary funds, means, and vehicles we are currently (?seeking). [end recording]

The president of the National Committee for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking later indicated that the government has made a great effort to combat drug traffickers. For this reason, he said, I can affirm that the U.S. State Department has received distorted information.

[Begin recording] We have learned this information through the press, but I believe that the Department of State has received distorted information or perhaps it has been misinformed because the public has acknowledged the efforts made by the country, and mainly by the government, to combat the drug trade despite the scarce resources available to the government. Some other information has also been distorted to the effect that the commercialization of coca was declared unrestricted in a regulation approved by the government. This is not accurate because the regulation seeks to restrict and to regulate the trade, which had been virtually unlimited until the decree was issued. The purpose of the regulation is to control the coca trade and it has been clearly shown that neither the government nor the national committee would intervene in the establishment of the price of coca, which is regulated by the marketplace. [end recording]

COB 'TO CONFRONT' GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

PY232035 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The much anticipated document of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] was revealed to the media yesterday afternoon. The document, which is signed by the entire COB Executive Committee, begins by stating that the crisis Bolivia is enduring is all-encompassing, that is, it affects the entire social system and especially the productive sectors.

The document continues, stating views about all administrations since 1964 until the current democratic process, and then points out its concludions:

The COB document's second conclusion states that the people's anguish, prompted by the daily struggle for sustenance and fed by fear of the dark reactionary forces, is on the verge of turning into dangerous desperation. Therefore, maintaining the COB's established policy of conciliation through agreements with the government of the Democratic and Popular Unity, so as to preserve freedoms and guarantees, can only lead to the worsening of the political and economic aspects of the situation.

The document points out that since it is the duty of this Executive Committee to resort to all possible alternatives to preserve freedoms and guarantees and to hear the outcry of the people, who are experiencing deprivation and despair, we have decided to firmly confront the government policy with the pressing and unavoidable need to struggle for the implementation of our updated emergency plan, which is aimed at definitely changing the current economic program. This will be achieved with a change of structure, which in turn will be achieved through a change in the nature of the state.

The COB document ends by stating that since our emergency plan seeks to fulfill the most pressing and vital needs of the people and nation, we, the Bolivian workers, will struggle for the people's victory through the means proposed by the COB and the national labor unions. The document points out that these means are mainly based on the permanent and active consolidation of the greatest workers' organization, that is, the COB, and the unions and federations that belong to it, within the spirit of firm unity which we will strongly defend.

These, in sum, are some of the noteworthy portions of the COB document which was drawn up during a meeting held by the COB's National Executive Committee to evaluate the current situation.

FIGUEIREDO RECOVERY TERMED SATISFACTORY

PY250127 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpt] President Joao Figueiredo's post-surgery recovery is satisfactory. He left at 0900 this morning from the Brasilia Air Base in the company of Land Affairs Minister General Danilo Venturini, and flew to Rio de Janeiro. Once in Rio de Janeiro, President Figueiredo went to the residence of the aeronautics minister from the Galeao Airport to undergo a medical examination.

Neurosurgeon Paulo Niemeyer was satisfied with the president's recovery. He said that the recovery has been the best possible since the president left the Sao Jose clinic last week.

[Begin Niemeyer recording] He is recovering very well. The condition of his leg muscles has improved sufficiently and he is walking with his body erect. There is no problem.

Doctor Niemeyer denied that President Figueiredo is having pain in his right leg. He said that he can engage in all activities, except horseback riding, and added that the pace of his exercising is being increased. The examination lasted half an hour and, according to the physician, the laboratory tests revealed that the general health of the President has improved a great deal, including the healing of the surgical incision. He has lost 4 or 5 kilograms.

At about 1100, President Figueiredo left for his farm in Nogueira where he will spend the weekend. According to Presidential Spokesman Carlos Atila, the president will return to Brasilia on Sunday morning.

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOT SEEKING U.S. 'SYMPATHY'

PY250155 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jan 85 p 4

[Excerpt] Yesterday, as he was leaving for Rio de Janeiro where he caught the flight to Rome, the first phase of his tour through Europe, the United States, and Latin America, President-elect Tancredo Neves was indignant when a journalist asked him whether he hoped to obtain President Reagan's sympathy for Brazil's economic difficulties.

Tancredo said: "I am not going for that reason. The day I place my country in such a humiliating position abroad I will no longer be fit to be the president of this country."

He continued to say: "I am going to give details on the country's current situation, but he [Reagan] too has his problems, which are not small. Every country has its own problems."

TANCREDO NEVES DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S GAINS, FUTURE

PM211149 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Jan 85 pp 1, 5

[Interview with President-Elect Tancredo Neves by correspondent Charels Vanhecke: "Tancredo Neves Elected President of Brazil" -- date not given]

[Text] Brasilia — A nationalist, reformist, apostle of conciliation, and advocate of liberalism "even if it is out of date," such is the picture that Tancredo Neves paints of himself in an interview that he gave to LE MONDE upon his election to the presidency.

Question: Your election marks the end of 21 years of military rule: How do you view those years?

Answer: They now belong to history, which will have the job of judging them. As a politician and a Brazilian it is my view, it could be revised by posterity, that our country has unquestionably become more modern, its industrial base has grown, and it has made considerable gains in such spheres as transport, communications, nuclear energy, and electronics. It has also made great advances in industrial development, but at a high cost to the population.

Brazil is 8th among the world's industrial powers but 84th in terms of per capita GNP. This means that economic development has been to the benefit of the minority and to the detriment of the great majority of the nation. My government's task will be to reduce this inequality and to introduce to the majority the benefits of development; in other words, to provide them with more food, better education, and better public sanitation and health

Another problem to be tackled is unemployment. Our country has been working using imported technology which has not absorbed labor at the same rate as the growth in the population, and the result, as you can see, has been a proliferation of shantytowns and a dangerous and tragic concentration of the urban population.

Question: You were a minister under Getulio Vargas and prime minister under Joao Goulart, two heads of state who were nationalists and reformists. Is that how you would define yourself now: a nationalist and a reformist?

Answer: I am not one of those who is afraid of ideologies. Therefore, I would reply: Yes, I am a reformist and a nationalist, like Vargas and Goulart. I believe that government consists in constant social reforms in order to adapt the state to society, because the latter is evolving all the time. As for nationalism, it is not the result of political choice but of survival in countries like ours, which are trying to make their mark on history. My experience of government has confirmed what I have always believed: namely, that only patience and moderation can bring political crises to an end. Having said that, Brazil is not the same country as it was at the time of Vargas and Goulart. It is far more complex. Our policy will have to be different from what was applied then.

Question: And what will your policy be?

Answer: We are inheriting a country whose institutions have been crippled by 2 decades of authoritarianism. This is a cultured country but one living under a Constitution for which it has not voted, which has been imposed on it, and which is reactionary and anti-national. Our first job will thus be to provide our fellow countrymen with a democratic, dynamic, and modern constitution. In the economic sphere we are suffering the consequences of the recessionary policies imposed by the IMF. It is 4 years now since the country's growth was paralyzed, and this has meant business closures, wage cuts, and unemployment.

The resumption of growth is a question of survival. In the social sphere we have established that over one-half of our population is living in dire poverty and that our infant mortality rate is among the highest in the world. There are 12 million homeless children. In many regions disease represents an intolerable scourge. It is a matter of urgency for our country to pay off its social debt, and it will do so by raising the level of its culture and technology.

Question: As a nationalist, do you not think that Brazil's independence is compromised by its commitments to the IMF and foreign creditors?

Answer: National sovereignty is clearly affected by foreign debt, and ours is crushing. Brazil has always honored its foreign commitments: We have no intention of breaking this tradition. We owe money: We shall repay our debts with money. But not at the price of hunger, poverty, and the dishonor of our population. We shall repay every last cent of our debt, but within a deadline and on terms that we consider feasible.

Question: Do you not fear that with the return of democracy there could be a worsening of social tensions and that the extreme left could benefit from this to your detriment?

Answer: I should not like my government to have unanimous national support. Every government needs opposition. I am well aware who will be in the opposition; there will be the survivors of the current regime, those who have been defeated. There will also be certain forces on the left which, while democratic, will try to grow and consolidate against us. And there will also be the extreme left, which is opposed to democracy because it wants a radical transformation of society. The left which acts within the law will be respected. The subversive left will be combated by the might of the law.

Question: What pledges do you make to your people and country?

Answer: The pledges of a liberal unafraid to adopt a stance which many people consider to be old-fashioned. I regard freedom as the supreme value, and it has inspired all my public life, by which I mean the freedom to exercise such specific and fundamental rights as the rights to work, to own property, and to live in peace. Another pledge on my part, one which may seem self evident, but which deserves stating, especially in present-day Brazil, is to govern with dignity and moderation.

PRESIDENT-ELECT NEVES BEGINS VISIT TO ROME

For Brasilia Domestic and Rome coverage of the visit to Italy by President-elect Tancredo Neves and his meetings with Italian Government officials, see the 25 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'SECRET AGREEMENT' WITH UK ON FAILKANDS REPORTED

PY240135 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2256 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] London, 23 Jan (EFE) -- Great Britain reached a secret agreement with Chile for assistance against Argentina during the Malvinas war, the London magazine NEW STATESMAN says in its latest issue which will be on sale tomorrow, 24 January.

The magazine says that according to the agreement Great Britain could use the Chilean base of Punta Arenas for its spy airplanes camouflaged with Chilean emblems.

The NEW STATESMAN says that in exchange, Chile would receive the British-built Canberra bombers and Hunter jet bombers at the conclusion of the war (2 April to 14 June 1982).

According to the magazine the spy airplanes of the Royal Air Force would fly from London to Belize, from there to Santiago, and finally to Punta Arenas, a Chilean city located just over 600 km from the Malvinas.

A spokesman for the British Defense Ministry tonight refused to make any comments on the NEW STATESMAN article, indicating that the ministry does not discuss operational matters.

George Foulkes, a Labor Party spokesman for Latin American affairs, labeled the alleged British-Chilean agreement as dirty, saying that tomorrow he is going to ask for an explanation from the government in Parliament.

Foreign Ministry Denial

PY241704 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has categorically denied the existence of an accord allegedly reached with Great Britain during the Malvinas war. The British magazine NEW STATESMAN had been quoted as reporting on the details of an alleged UK-Chilean agreement. The communique states:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The Foreign Ministry hereby categorically denies the reports published by the British magazine NEW STATESMAN on the existence of an alleged secret accord between Great Britain and Chile during the Malvinas war. Such reports are absolutely groundless. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry also reiterated the Chilean Government's long-standing policy of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other nations. Therefore, it reaffirmed that Chile was strictly neutral in the conflict, although it recognized Argentine rights over the disputed islands.

[Begin recording] The Chilean Government has noticed that there are interested parties that try to create problems between Latin American nations whenever new steps are taken toward continental peace and integration. [end recording]

With this communique, the Foreign Ministry has denied foreign press reports which spread rumors on secret accords allegedly reached when this conflict broke out in April 1982.

PINOCHET SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO REAGAN

PY221731 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] According to the Chilean Foreign Ministry, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has sent a congratulatory message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of his assuming of his duties for his second presidential term. Captain General of the Army Augusto Pinochet congratulated the U.S. President on behalf of the Chilean people and their government. In his message, Pinochet expresses his hope that during President Reagan's new presidential term, Chile and the United States will strengthen the traditional ties of friendship uniting the two countries.

U.S. CONGRESSMEN VISIT, SUGGEST AID CUT

PY190225 Santiago Radio Chilean in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] ...U.S. congressmen who visited Santiago for 5 days, and regretted that President General Augusto Pinochet did not receive them. During a meeting with the press, the U.S. legislators reported that they had met with Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, representatives of various sectors, leaders of the Chilean Human Rights Commission, and representatives of the labor sector and of neighborhood committees. The visitors regretted that the news media, with the exception of some honorable media, had not published their views on Chilean developments, and said that they will inform President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Congress of their experience in Chile.

The U.S. legislators also said that they will ask both the U.S. Congress and financial organizations to reduce financial aid to Chile.

The press conference, which was held in one of the lounges of the Sheraton San Cristobal Hotel, was attended mostly by foreign correspondents and by only three Chilean news media. The delegation, which stayed in Santiago for 5 days, will return to the United States tonight.

Jarpa Comments

PY181920 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa reported today in an extensive press conference that 63 persons were granted a suspension of their banishment decrees. He added that several others will also be pardoned in the next few days. During the press conference, the interior minister discussed several national issues.

Regarding the meeting he recently held with a group of visiting U.S. legislators, the interior minister noted that they discussed general issues during the meeting.

[Begin recording] It was a meeting in which we discussed in general the present state of U.S.-Chilean relations; the different tactics that must be adopted to confront the penetration of Soviet communism; Chilean economic development; and the results achieved in 1984. Well, we discussed many issues but we did not discuss some Chilean domestic political issues as was reported. [end recording]

Jarpa reasserted that each country knows quite will how to confront its own problems and that, therefore, no foreign country can give us any (?political) formulas.

[Begin recording] Well, as you know each country has its own experiences and path to be followed in this regard. I believe therefore that no one has the right to give formulas to anyone in this regard. Moreover, the tactics that the United States has used to confront communism in several regions throughout the world have not been that effective. Therefore, I am surprised that the United States feels compelled to issue formulas to other countries. I believe that each country knows the best way to confront this problem, which, moreover, is a general problem affecting the Western world. As I have said, the United States has its own experiences and its own thoughts [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Nevertheless, Jarpa said that he thought that the meeting with U.S. legislators had been quite fruitful since they expressed their pleasure over the housing programs that are being presently developed in Chile. They also showed great interest in economic development, particularly regarding forestry and fruit development and the increase in fruit exports that Chile has achieved during 1984.

Asked about the statement made by Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves who said that Chile and Paraguay are the only countries [in South America] that have military governments, Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa said that no foreign ruler has the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries.

[Begin recording] I believe that no foreign ruler has the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of any country. Chile has a long history of a democratic tradition, and I believe that no one is authorized to give us lessons in this regard. There are countries that nave had extremely long periods of governments that were not elected by the people but which feel they are authorized to give lessons to the entire world. But as we said, we believe that each country has its own experiences and that each country resolves its own problems in keeping with the circumstances. I am not aware of this statement you are alluding to and I do not believe it was issued, but if it was indeed issued and along the same lines you have noted, I can only say that we Chileans do not accept the interference of any foreign ruler in our domestic affairs. [end recording]

POLICE DISCOVER INTERNATIONAL COCAINE RING

PY231824 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] The police are continuing their investigations to find the people involved in the million-dollar cocaine trafficking operation that has just been discovered in Santiago. It must be noted that up to now the police have confiscated cocaine worth $500,000 and that the Santiago drug department has arrested six [as heard] drug traffickers. They have been identified as Hugo Claudio Aguilar, a 31-year-old Bolivian; Magali Linares Torcico, Bolivian; Francisco Hegues Gutierrez, a 39-year-old Bolivian; and Esmeraldo del Transito Hidalgo Cortez, a 45-year-old Chilean. All of them are residents of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. They carried the drug in the soles of their shoes from Santa Cruz to Puerto Mont abroad trains. From Puerto Mont they traveled to Bariloche and Rio Gallegos in Argentina, from where they flew to Sydney, Australia, where they sold it at very high prices.

BRIEFS

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICES -- Enrique Zurita Camps has been appointed as a new member of the Chilean Supreme Court. President Pinochet selected Zurita from a list of names submitted by Supreme Court members. Zurita is 70 years old and before his appointment he was chief appelate judge of the seventh court. With Zurita's appointment, the Supreme Court is completed. Recent appointments to the court were Hernan Cereceda and Fernando Jordan. [Text] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Jan 85 PY]

BETANCUR WISHES REAGAN SUCCESS IN NEW TERM

PA242026 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0453 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, 23 Jan (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur told U.S. President Ronald Reagan that he hopes that his administration will fulfill its intentions toward Latin America.

In a message addressed to Reagan, the Colombian head of state said: "Your position on the foreign debt of the developing countries will have considerable impact on our countries and on the institutional and democratic stability of our societies."

"We hope that it (the Reagan administration) will consider these elements," the note by Betancur to the U.S. President added, wishing him success in his term "of such decisive significance for the welfare of humanity."

President Betancur told Reagan: "The opening of trade and the unrestricted access of our products to the large U.S. market is also consistent with your statements, which we hope to see materialized in the new term of your administration."

The Colombian head of state expressed his optimism about the talks under way on the limitation of nuclear arms and on the consequences these talks would have for peace.

"We hope to see it extended to our own region, particularly to the Central American and Caribbean region where the Contadora Group is indefatigably pursuing its peacekeeping task, surrounded by universal support," Belisario Betancur added.

The Colombian president reiterated that the struggle against drug trafficking will continue and that he hopes that it will be joint effort against both producers and consumers, "who in the end, are the ones generating drug trafficking."

Concluding, Belisario Betancur stated that the "respectful, cordial, and frank" dialogue between the two nations will be maintained for their common benefit.

BRIEFS

BETANCUR RECEIVES IRANIAN AMBASSADOR -- Tehran, Jan, 19, IRNA -- The first ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Colombia, Mostafa Mokhlessi, presented his credentials to Belisario Betancur, the Colombian president, Friday. At this ceremony, Mokhlessi said the Islamic Republic of Iran has opened its embassy in Bogota when it is suffering from its four-year-long imposed war, economic sanctions, as well as other problems. He added opening the embassy was only due to Iran's interest in expanding its relations with Colombia. He also urged the speedy reopening of the Colombian Embassy in Tehran. In response, the Colombian president expressed his appreciation for the opening of the Iranian mission in his country and hoped that the Embassy of Colombia would be reopened in Tehran as soon as possible. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 19 Jan 85 LD]

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS REPORT 6,000 MISSING

PY211600 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2324 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Lima, 20 Jan (EFE) -- According to a report issued by the first meeting of Peruvian human rights organizations, approximately 6,000 persons have disappeared in Peru over the past few years.

Quoting this report, the Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA states today that human rights are continuously and systematically violated in Peru.

Pablo Rojas, chairman of the National Commission for Human Rights [Conadeh], has stated that most of the disappearances have occurred in the emergency zone which encompasses Ayacucho, Apurimac, Huancavelica, Huanuco, and San Martin Departments.

Rojas explained that this meeting was attended by a number of human rights organizations which have been established in view of the violations openly taking place against human rights, particularly against the main one, the right to live.

The local newspaper also reports that the meeting was attended by hundreds of delegates representing Conadeh, the Peace and Justice Service (SPJ), and the Andean Lawyers Commission from the Legal Defense Institute.

Also attending the event were representatives of committees of relatives of missing persons, of political prisoners, and of journalists killed in the Andean village of Uchurajay in January 1983.

COMMUNIQUE ASSERTS 'FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS'

PY241042 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Lima, 23 Jan (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government today issued a communique stating that full respect for human rights is promoted and practiced as a matter of state policy in this country. The official communique was released just as today's newspapers were carrying news agency reports from London concerning a new Amnesty International report, according to which over 1,000 people have disappeared in Peru over the past 2 years in the area under military and police control.

The introduction of the official communique states that the government has been noticing reports on alleged violations of human rights in Peru being carried by various news media, and this has prompted it to state its position.

It states that human rights are being respected in keeping with the unwavering democratic convictions of the people, of whom the government is a true representative.

The communique stresses that acknowledging this policy, the international community has appointed Peru a member of the UN Human Rights Commission for the 1985-87 term.

It indicates that the Peruvian Government decided on its own to invite the working group on forcible or involuntary disappearances of the UN Human Rights Commission to visit Peru and conduct its investigations with the utmost care so as to ascertain that the charges, which are being made groundlessly, are untrue.

The communique adds that a difference must be made between arbitrary repression, which the government repudiates, and the exercise of the government's legal authority to keep the terrorism of the Maoist Shining Path group under control.

It also states that whenever there have been abuses of authority, the cases have been left in the hands of the state prosecutor's office for proper investigation, and whenever the actions reported were found to be true and the perpetrators identified, the latter have been taken to court.

According to the Amnesty International report, more than 1,000 people -- men, women, and children -- are missing, and hundreds have been murdered while in prison.

On 21 January, the Lima magazine CARETAS reported the cases of at least five persons who were found dead in various common graves in Ayacucho after having been arrested by the police and later sent to local Marine barracks.

MINISTER REQUESTS REVISION OF USSR FISHING ACCORD

PY231339 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Fisheries Minister Ismael Benavides Ferreyros has recommended that the Peruvian-Soviet fishing agreement signed in 1971 be revised. He is making this recommendation on the grounds that the Soviet fleet, operating close to the demarkation line of Peru's 200-mile territorial waters, is endangering the nation's fishing resources, particularly saurel and mackerel.

The agreement expires in March 1987. Thus, it is necessary to reach an accord with the USSR to have its fleet rationalize its operation, the minister said.

ARGENTINA TO REFINANCE NUCLEAR PROJECT

PY171335 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] General Juan Barreda Delgado, president of the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy [IPEN], has announced that work will be resumed next week on the Huarangal nuclear center project. He estimated that the center will be finished by the end of this year.

Barreda talked with the press at Jorge Chavez Airport, where he had come for family reasons, and said that a satisfactory agreement has been reached with Argentina regarding the refinancing of credit granted to IPEN for the project.

POSTAL WORKERS, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS STRIKE

PY212109 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1410 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Montevideo, 21 Jan (EFE) -- Uruguayan post office employees today started an indefinite work-to-rule stoppage in demand of wage increases. The post offices are not receiving any outgoing mail, and the incoming mail is not being distributed. All the incoming mail has been kept in storage for several weeks, apparently due to poor management.

Similarly, the professors of the University of the Republic have decided to hold a 48-hour strike and to occupy the university campus, starting tomorrow. This strike will affect the Montevideo Central Hospital. The university professors, like the post office employees, are demanding wage increases.

Uruguay has been enduring a wave of strikes and labor protests since the 25 November general elections, which marked the beginning of the peaceful transition from a dictatorial to a democratic government. The country is also confronting a serious locally originated economic crisis that has been aggravated by the effects of the world recession. Moreover, the wave of strikes is taking place at time when the military government is unwilling to take action and the elected government will not assume power until 1 March.

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS FURTHER SUGAR IMPORTS

PY190255 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] The government has decided to suspend sugar imports by canceling the corresponding authorization to import this product. However, the government will respect the import requests submitted prior to the suspension.

The government based the measure on the fact that the beetroot sugar mills have guaranteed a normal supply of sugar and the stability of their employees.

Import requests for 370,000 tons had been submitted prior to the suspension of sugar imports.

SEREGNI: BROAD FRONT UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT ANY MINISTRY

PY230248 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Excerpt] During a plenary meeting tomorrow the Broad Front will decide about its participation in the future government. In this regard General Liber Seregni, president of the leftist coalition, disclosed that is very unlikely that this group will accept any ministry but that it is willing to form part of the management of state enterprises or organizations.

In referring to another issue Seregni stated that during the past few hours the Front has been adjusting the guidelines for the performance of its bloc in congress and analyzing the stance it will adopt regarding the various aspects of the current situation the country is enduring.

BRIEFS

NEW GENERALS -- The Board of Army Generals has filled the two vacancies in the rank of general by promoting Colonels Juan A. Zerpa (infantry) and Nelson Rodriguez (cavalry) as of 1 February 1985 in keeping with the provisions of the military law. [Excerpt] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Jan 85 p 5 PY]

LUSINCHI CONGRATULATES BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT-ELECT

PA250213 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Jan 85 p D 2

[Letter sent by President Jaime Lusinchi to Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves, issued in Caracas; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr Tancredo Neves; president-elect of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Brasilia, Brazil:

I am particularly pleased to state, on behalf of the people and Government of Venezuela and my own behalf, our cordial congratulations on your election as president of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The Venezuelan people fully appreciate the significance of this new phase beginning in our brother country, and we have closely followed with an American interest the process which has led to your election.

I fully trust that we will maintain with your government relations based on a fruitful dialogue, with the understanding and common interest of strengthening and deepening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two neighboring countries, which have been traditional friends, resolved to join forces for the benefit and economic and social development of their peoples and to strengthen democracy.

While asserting our sympathy for the Brazilian people, I want to state that you may count on the Venezuelan Government's constructive Latin American position. I extend the best wishes for the successful exercise of the high position to which you have been elected.

Please accept a cordial greeting from your friend,

[Signed] Jaime Lusinchi, president of the Republic of Venezuela

COPEI LEADER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT, 'FALSE HOPES'

PA242011 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Jan 85 p D 12

["Message to the Nation" delivered by COPEI Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez on the 39th anniversary of the party's founding; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Today we commemorate the 39th anniversary of the founding of COPEI. Almost 4 decades ago we began our ardent struggle in support of the best interests of the Venezuelan people. Today we wish to solemnly renew before the nation our commitment to continue working in a unified way to make Venezuela greater and for the progress and happiness of all our fellow countrymen.

Venezuelans have both the right and duty to be optimistic. We who made possible the marvel of independence on an entire continent which was inspired by the formidable leadership of Simon Bolivar, cannot be overwhelmed by the problems of the present.

However, we are also entitled to be spoken to with clarity. The country wants to be optimistic, but it does not want to be deceived by false hopes and expectations.

Several days ago we listened to the president's year-end message. With all due respect, we must state that the outlook for the country portrayed in that address is not an accurate reflection of the Venezuelan reality. The president attempted to convince us that the Venezuelan economy has begun to recover, that all we need to do is reactivate the construction sector, and that his administration has transformed the country's economic and administration situation.

This is far from true. The year that just ended depicts, quite frankly, a very negative balance. The year 1984 was characterized by great national frustration in response to a government effort than began amidst enormous and very favorable expectations. However, all the problems that existed then are still present and in some cases have become more serious.

In his year-end message the president claimed that "the oil situation has seen its worse moment and OPEC is much stronger now," when even oil industry connoisseurs are issuing warnings on the grave world energy situation and on the plot to weaken OPEC; when Venezuela has been compelled to reduce production by 120,000 barrels per day since October 1984; and when the most qualified oil trend specialists are predicting an additional decline in oil sales in 1985.

Nothing can justify concealing the truth from the public. Venezuela must do everything possible to defend OPEC, but we will run a great risk if we err in diagnosing the problem and believe that the crisis is behind us.

The president of the Republic outlined as one of the achievements of his administration the alleged fiscal balance obtained in 1984, but he forgot to explain that this was simply a balance in accounting terms, which only refers to the central government's budget and not to the entire public sector. He also forgot to say that fiscal income increased artificially, as a result of the so-called exchange utilities and the increase of income at Petroven derived from the devaluation of the bolivar.

The president said that his administration's policies helped reduce unemployment, when official statistics show a 30-percent increase in the unemployment rate between December 1983 and December 1984.

Unemployment is a stark reality that hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans entitled to the truth must confront.

COPEI is willing to cooperate, as a constructive and patriotic opposition force, to reactivate the economy.

The figures cited in the presidential message to convince the people that the economy is improving cannot survive the least rigorous of analyses. The GNP was 72.3 billion bolivares in 1983. In 1984 it was 71,005 million bolivares, a decline of 5 percent in 1983 and of 1.7 percent in 1984.

Before we call for unity to confront the economic crisis, we must come to grips with the magnitude of the problem and not hide it behind manipulated statistics or rhetorical pirouettes.

The head of state has said that his government has successfully curbed inflation and cost-of-living increases. All Venezuelans are suffereing from the rigors of inflation. We are not speaking of cost-of-living increases in other countries or another planet.

It is here, in present-day Venezuela, where families are feeling anguish and despair as a result of unharnessed price increases of all staples. In 1984 the cost of living tripled, and we all know that inflation is not a fabrication. We know that price adjustments after devaluation have not been completed, that a large percentage of commercial transactions are still made with preferential dollars, and that if there is not an urgent revision of fiscal spending and exchange policies we will have worse inflationary effects in the near future.

Never has an administration shown such rapid deterioration as the current Democratic Action administration. In only 10 months the public opinion polls favoring it have fallen from the 57 percent obtained during the last December's elections to barely 20 percent in recent polls. All Venezuelans are concerned about this. We are also concerned about the deteriorated public image of many institutions basic to the democratic system of government.

To overcome this crisis, COPEI proposes a great effort of institutional renewal. The course being followed leads nowhere, and unfortunately the government seems to have a blurred notion of the magnitude of the problem. Now that the electoral majority of Democratic Action is a thing of the past, we repeat our willingness to promote a great national agreement to renew and strengthen our democratic system. We have submitted a note to the president of the Republic today in which we present our ideas on this matter.

For our party, 1985 will be a year of learning. In 1986 we intend to hold our ideological convention to establish a pragmatic basis for our government action in the upcoming constitutional term.

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON CONTADORA, OTHER ISSUES

PA240455 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Jan 85 pp 1 A, 13 A, 14 A

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulvada said yesterday: It is essential that we reach genuine political agreements leading to the solution of differences in Central America. I value these kinds of agreements more...than formal schemes because without them it would be difficult to create a legal framework conducive to peace agreements in the area."

The foreign secretary said that Mexico has all the necessary legal resources to ensure the extradition of Arturo Durazo [former police chief charged with embezzlement and corruption] and that it is confident that U.S. courts will abide by the law and rule to extradite him. He also said that the country must be attentive to any draft bills concerning immigration issues that could be proposed in the United States this year.

On whether the visit of Pope John Paul II in the region is aimed at trying to solve Central American problems, Sepulveda said: "As far as I know, there is no proposal to that effect; we have received no indication suggesting this..."

Sepulveda said that statements by Honduras last Thursday should not be interpreted as that country's decision to withdraw from negotiations promoted by the Contadora Group. The issue of the right to grant asylum should not influence the group's diplomatic action, since it has no connection whatsoever with the topics under the group's consideration. We believe that this isolated incident must be separated from other broader problems facing Central America that are more serious and delicate in terms of peace and security, Sepulveda said.

The foreign secretary said that during a meeting 2 days ago with Harry Shlaudeman, the U.S. President's special ambassador to Central America, Shlaudeman "clearly said that Central American governments are definitely maintaining their political determination to continue...(with the peace process) under the guidance of the Contadora Group." As for the dialogue in Manzanillo, Sepulveda said that should the progress achieved thus far continue in a systematic way, current problems between the United States and Nicaragua will be progressively solved; moreover, as a result of this, there will be political understanding leading to security in the isthmus, and honorable and dignified agreements not involving surrender by either side within the peace process in Central America.

During a breakfast held yesterday by the diplomatic "source," the foreign secretary announced that Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves will visit Mexico from 3 to 5 February to meet with President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado and other Mexican authorities. He also announced that there will be a meeting in Santo Domingo of foreign and finance ministers of the Cartagena Agreement on 7 and 8 February to work further toward the establishment of political talks with industrialized countries. The foreign secretary added that Mexico will be visited by several heads of state, including Latin American leaders, during the first half of this year. Argentine President Raul Alfonsin is known to be among them. He said that official visits by the Mexican president to European countries are being studied. He voiced Mexico's interest in maintaining privileged relations with Canada. Canada is our friend in the political as well as the economic field, he said.

The foreign secretary said that he has no knowledge of a suspension of oil shipments to Costa Rica. He noted that this matter is handled within the framework of the San Jose agreement and that PEMEX is in charge of the operational aspect.

Foreign Secretary Sepulveda Amor said that the New Delhi summit, in which the heads of state of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania will participate, will be based on the declaration they issued on 22 May 1984 that urged the superpowers to resume disarmament talks and negotiations as an indispensable element in encouraging international detente. He added that President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado has also accepted an invitation for a state visit in India to discuss bilateral matters.

Sepulveda Amor said that the Contadora Group foreign ministers have held informal talks with the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan foreign ministers, urging them to find a satisfactory solution to the dispute currently hindering their relations. The Contadora Group foreign ministers hope that the conflict will soon be resolved, so that no obstacle will interfere with the smooth development of the meeting of plenipotentiaries scheduled for 14-15 February. Sepulveda Amor said that if the process promoted by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela ends successfully, that success will be attributed to Manzanillo and Contadora, which are concomitant vessels whose reciprocal influences can be felt, and to the victory of reason, justice, and peace. He stressed that the meeting scheduled for 14-15 February will not be the last one and will not produce a final version of the Contadora Document. The meeting will be focused on an analysis, which hopefully will result in the approval, of a system for verification and control. The general consensus is that it should be an effective system, he added.

Sepulveda Amor noted that it will be necessary to devise this system before inviting a number of governments whose respectability is unquestionable and that have a high credibility, to express their willingness to cooperate with the Contadora Group in implementing a system to oversee the implementation of the commitments called for in the document.

He said that some countries have been mentioned as possible members of the so-called commission for verification and control. He added that "of course, these reports do not necessarily originate from the Contadora Group," but that first the system must be determined. Regarding the signing of an additional protocol besides the Contadora Document, he said: "We hope that the extra points or refinements proposed for the document will be ready as soon as possible." He added that the document must be signed first by the countries directly involved in the conflict, as the 12 foreign minister from European governments declared in San Jose during their meeting with their Central American and Contadora counterparts last September.

Regarding relations between Guatemala and Mexico, Sepulveda Amor said that various economic and commercial projects are under way, as well as projects for the utilization of hydraulic resources. He added that the political communication he maintains with Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran has been very useful in the bilateral aspect, and also with regard to the Contadora process, in which Andrade has played a particularly important role by coordinating the peace efforts.

In conclusion, Sepulveda Amor said that it is the Mexican Government's opinion that the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas should be promoted, because this is a valid instrument for achieving national conciliation and for solving the civil conflict in that country, "which we very much deplore."

PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID MEETS SPAIN'S GONZALEZ

For Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by President Miguel de la Madrid and his meeting in Palma de Mallorca with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 24 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BELIZE

FURTHER ON TALKS WITH GUATEMALA, UK DEFENSE PACT

FL242028 Bridgetown CANA in English 1946 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Jan 24, CANA -- Talks between Belize and Guatemala on the latter's claim to the former British colony will resume in New York next month, an official statement said. The announcement was made as Foreign Minister Dean Barrow was on his way to London to negotiate new defense arrangements with Britain, which has an 1,800-strong garrison in the sparsely populated country to deter Guatemala from invading to enforce its century-old claim to Belizean territory.

The talks, the first since conservative leader Manuel Esquivel was elected prime minister of Belize last December, will begin on Feb 12 and include observers from Britain. The Belize Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a release said that the talks are only exploratory and will not be at the ministerial level. The Belize delegation will be led by Robert Leslie, roving ambassador, and Edward Laing Jr, a special advisor to the ministry and professor of law at Howard University. Leslie was until recently Belize's permanent representative to the United Nations. The last session of talks between Belize and Guatemala was held in July and was described as encouraging by the previous government of Prime Minister George Price. But a round of talks slated for last September was cancelled without explanation.

The defense agreement between London and Belmopan provides for British troops to remain here for an appropriate period, but the new United Democratic Party government is not happy with it. Before leaving Belize last week on official visit to Washington, London, and New York, Foreign Minister Barrow said that his administration will be seeking to strengthen the agreement so as to safeguard against a premature withdrawal of British troops. Barrow also said that the Belize Government will also be seeking alternative defense arrangements to safeguard the country's security and territorial integrity but he declined to elaborate.

Belize gained independence in 1981, but direct talks with Guatemala began only last May. Previously, Britain represented Belizean interests. The Guatemala Government however still refuses to reconize Belize as an independent state.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES STUDENTS IN CUBA

FL182200 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Manuel Esquivel, says the matter of Belizeans studying in Cuba is a problem that his administration is looking at seriously. He told the press Wednesday he had taken up the matter with other Caribbean leaders who have the same problem. "But short of recalling people's passports there is nothing we can do," the prime minister said.

It stands to reason now that the government is against Belizeans going to Cuba to study. But the same government has promised to respect freedoms and rights, and this must include the freedom of every citizen to go where he pleases, and the right to an education. If a student, on his own right, chooses to continue his studies in Cuba, it is hoped the government will not interfere. After all, American students are not prevented from studying in the USSR or any country in Eastern Europe. Also there are students from communist countries in Western Europe and the United States. Like the foreign minister said, if the United States is represented in Nicaragua (for the presidential inauguration) then Belize can be there too. This is what democracy is all about, right?

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON NICARAGUAN AMNESTY, CONTRA CLAIMS

PA241643 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that the Managua regime claims there are counterrevolutionaries in Honduras and Costa Rica because it cannot admit that there are any inside Nicaragua. At the same time, he stated that the amnesty law passed in Nicaragua is worthy of praise, that it is satisfactory, and that it reflects the Contadora spirit.

[Begin recording] The passage of the amnesty law deserves praise, it is satisfactory, and it reflects the Contadora spirit.

Concerning the claim that there are armed counterrevolutionaries in Costa Rica ready to invade Nicaraguan territory, they would have to be found [words indistinct] that no one has seen them. I presume that the Nicaraguan Government feels it must say that there are armed counterrevolutionaries in Honduras and Costa Rica because it cannot admit that they are inside Nicaragua. One would have to ask someone to point out where they are. This is a fabrication, a lie; it is absolutely untrue. [end recording]

The Costa Rican foreign minister stated that Commander Tomas Borge's statements contradict those issued in Managua at the diplomatic level on the state of Nicaragua's relations with Costa Rica.

Gutierrez indicated that thus far, the Contadora Group has not asked Costa Rica to take any action to study the case of Nicaraguan asylum seeker Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. Last week the OAS Permanent Council asked the Contadora Group to investigate the charge of violation of the right to asylum reportedly committed by Sandinist authorities.

[Begin recording] Early yesterday I spoke with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, who a few hours later was to leave for Yugoslavia and India with President De la Madrid. In the afternoon I spoke with Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo. They both told me they are continuing to work on the matter and that they hope it will be resolved. They said that they are in contact with both me and Foreign Minister D'Escoto in Managua. However, thus far there is nothing to report. [end recording]

FRG Mediation Offer

PA241530 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has pointed out that FRG Deputy Foreign Minister Juergen Moellemann's offer to try to ease the tensions between Costa Rica and Nicaragua was not a formal proposal. The foreign minister added that the West German official discussed Central American policies, Costa Rica's position, and, logically, the current situation with Nicaragua.

As the FRG official left for Nicaragua, he expressed an interest in discussing this matter with the Sandinist authorities, the foreign minister said. Gutierrez added that there was no formal discussion on possible mediation. Meanwhile, the foreign minister said that Costa Rica has no interest in increasing existing tensions with Nicaragua, but that it is not willing to have the country's dignity trampled upon by the neighboring country.

CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL ON $300 MILLION OWED TO COUNTRY

PA241956 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] According to Central Bank President Eduardo Lizano, Guatemala's monetary board has delayed approval of the document signed by the leaders of our respective countries. As a result, some of that country's debts to Costa Rica remain unpaid. However, it is not yet known whether Guatemala has reported a surplus among the commercial negotiations currently being examined in accordance with the Compensation Chamber, which forces all countries to negotiate equal sums. Guatemala has promised that any surplus registered in the negotiations will be canceled in cash or subtracted from its debt to our country.

Compensation Chamber Restricts Trade

As a result of the implementation of this measure among the Central American countries, commercial transactions might be restricted, because at present the various countries are facing problems in canceling their debts. The Costa Rican Government is trying to reach suitable agreements with those countries that have no possibility of registering surpluses. Constant checkups are conducted in the cases of Nicaragua and El Salvador to avoid the creation of new surpluses which they might be unable to pay. [sentence as published] In the case of Honduras, last year's debt is still being negotiated; and with Guatemala, the agreement states that if that country registers a surplus in its transactions, this will be subtracted from the debt it has with Costa Rica. Central America currently owes Costa Rica about $300 million: $200 million is owed by Nicaragua; $55 million by Guatemala; and about $50 million by El Salvador and Honduras together.

EL SALVADOR

TWO EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN SAN SALVADOR 24 JAN

PA242249 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Two explosions were heard this morning in the capital. According to reports received by this station, one blast was heard at 0540 and the other at approximately 0645. The first explosion took place at the central agency of the Cuscatlan Bank, near the old post office building. There were no casualties, but the building was severely damaged. The location of the second explosion has not yet been established. Yesterday, national police experts deactivated 83 bombs in different locations throughout metropolitan San Salvador. The last of these was dismantled in the headquarters of a political party in Ciudad Delgado. Yesterday afternoon, at approximately 1840, an explosion destroyed an electrical pole in front of the Fausto theater, north of this capital. This is all we have to report at this time.

Police Deny Deactivating Bombs

PA250148 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2247 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Jan (DPA) -- Today police authorities denied press statements that they had deactivated 63 [as received] bombs in different parts of the Salvadoran capital. Police sources state that only one bomb was deactivated at the headquarters of the Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA) in Ciudad Delgado, northeast of the capital, and that there have been no further reports on deactivated devices or placement of bombs, much less in the capital. Police spokesmen confirmed that this morning at dawn, unidentified persons placed a powerful bomb at the main entrance of the Cuscatlan Bank, a few meters away from the cathedral, damaging the entrance and a part of the bank's interior, but no injuries were reported.

ARMY SAYS REBELS DISLODGED FROM MORAZAN VILLAGES

PA231345 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Jan 85 pp 2, 27

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces continue counterinsurgency operations in the Departments of Morazan, Usulutan, Chalatenango, Cabanas, Cuscatlan, San Miguel, La Union, and La Paz.

Last night FMLN-FDR rebels destroyed the Torola River bridge near the town of the same name.

In addition to those actions, Army units are also conducting the "Guazapa Operation" to disband rebel groups that stage ambushes, commit thefts, attack roadblocks, and sabotage public services in the Guazapa Hill area.

Army units have dislodged guerrilla groups from all villages in Morazan Department, and as these move out of the area they are carrying out acts of sabotage and harassing guard posts and transportation, the Armed Forces have reported.

General Adolfo Onecifero Blandon, chief of the Armed Forces joint chiefs of staff, conducted an inspection tour of Joateca, Jocoaitique, Perquin, San Fernando, Arambala, and other sites on Friday to evaluate the residents' situation. They expressed concern over the frequent presence of subversive groups in their areas and reported that the rebels enter villages and demand food, money, medicine, clothing, shoes, and many other items and that they threaten the villagers if they do not turn over their belongings. The military leader promised the residents he would take an interest in the situation and attempt to find a favorable solution, saying it was his constitutional duty to do so.

Before dawn on Saturday, Salvadoran Air Force aircraft and helicopters bombed presumed terrorist positions on Guazapa Hill, where the operation of the same name is taking place and in which the Bracamonte Battalion and troops of Military Detachment No 5 of Cojutepeque are taking part. The bombing lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes. The results of that action are not yet known. Guazapa Hill is 25 km north of San Salvador.

RADIO VENCEREMOS SAYS 'TOROLA V' OPERATION FAILS

PA211439 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Salvadoran people: Attention to this report! The "Torola V" operation has failed amid the destruction of the bridge over the Torola River and the hasty flight of four battalions of the puppet Army from northern Morazan Department. These were the ill-named Belloso, Lenca, Cacahuatique, and Leon Battalions, which had to leave northern Morazan Department in a hurry and very nervously.

Never before has an operation been so useless, ridiculous, or unsuccessful as the so-called "Torola V" which ended this Sunday in resounding failure. The battalions of the dictatorship left this northern Morazan area before the scheduled time because they could no longer stand the pressure and the attrition caused by our guerrilla blows, which resulted in 61 casualties, both dead and wounded, in 10 days of fighting. These battalions left amid great nervous confusion protected by darkness and using the stream bed much of the time.

We report that the interrupted "Torola V" operations sustained 61 casualties, both dead and wounded, in 10 days of fighting. For our part, we report one combatant killed in action and four wounded. These are the results that we have achieved applying our guerrilla blows to the dictatorship's forces: 61 casualties, both dead and wounded.

It is important to note that the battalions that fled northern Morazan in a hurry on Sunday included the ill-named Belloso which left the gringo tactics learned in the United States in very bad standing. The members of this Coca Cola Battalion entered Morazan with fear. It was this fear that bogged them down on the terrain and kept them fainthearted and on the defensive. They left Morazan with fear.

The "Torola V" operation was not only hit militarily. During the scant 10 days Colonel Miguel Antonio "Munequita" Mendez spent in Morazan, his troops were the target of an intense propaganda campaign. It was a campaign of leaflets and posters with messages to the soldiers urging them to desert and become aware [words indistinct] soldiers. This campaign yielded some results through several desertions that occurred during the interrupted "Torola V" operation. The high command is afraid of our combatants [words indistinct].

GOVERNMENT FORCES SUFFER 124 CASUALTIES IN 10 DAYS

PA211458 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] In the past 10 days, our guerrillas have inflicted 124 casualties on the dictatorship's forces in the country's northeastern region. We inflicted 54 casualties, including those inflicted on the Arce Battalion and the National Guard, during the destruction of the San Luis coffee mill near the city of San Miguel in San Miguel Department. In 10 days of fighting in San Miguel Department, the FMLN suffered no casualties. In addition, in the northern area of Morazan, as we have already reported, we inflicted 61 casualties on the dictatorship troops during the 10 days of the "Torola V" operation. For our part, we suffered one combatant killed and four wounded. Also in Morazan we inflicted nine casualties on the enemy troops in the Cacahuatique area. We sustained two casualties.

Therefore, we inflicted 124 casualties on the enemy in the northeastern region while the frustrated and foiled "Torola V" operation ended with the destruction of the bridge over the Torola River.

VENCEREMOS CLAIMS POWER OF RIGHT WING GROWING

PA191855 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] We had said before that Ronald Reagan's reelection favored only the right and that Duarte should not exactly rejoice over Reagan's electoral victory. The Duarte government's current crisis and the strengthening of the right clearly confirm this.

We have said that Reagan's victory has benefited the right. The right is no ghost. The right is the Nationalist Republic Alliance [ARENA] and the Armed Forces. Duarte insists on projecting a policy marked by dialogue and peace, but all that is gaining strength in our country are war, more activity by the death squads, and the adoption of increasingly unpopular measures and laws. The right wingers within ARENA have bolstered their positions in the so-called Legislative Assembly, while the Armed Forces have placed their most staunchly right-wing and genocidal cadres in strategic posts. The military men themselves are the ones talking most often about peace, but the Armed Forces have their own war project, which Reagan promotes which contemplates genocidal actions against the Salvadoran people. With Reagan in power, the Armed Forces are receiving more aid and more weapons like the armored C-47 planes, whose machine guns harm only the civilian population.

Reagan's victory has merely confirmed that Duarte is powerless; he cannot promote any project because he is powerless. Duarte had promised that the assassins would be sentenced, yet the Armed Forces have kept him from taking a single step in this direction, as was demonstrated in the case of Lieutenant Lopez Cibrian and even in the case of [Presidency Minister] Rey Prendes' charge that [ARENA leader] D'Aubuisson had plans to kill him. The criminals are not being tried. D'Aubuisson remains free of worry, Lopez Cibrian is free, and no corrupt military man will be tried.

Duarte had promised respect for human rights, yet the death squads remain active within the Armed Forces as if his remark meant nothing. In truth, Duarte has served merely as a facade to hasten the strengthening of the right. Should he try to promote some project, whether one of his much promised reforms or any other type, Duarte would be in imminent danger of being removed from his fictitious government position. Evidence of this is the most recent budget cut for the presidential house approved by the Assembly, while at the same time the so-called Legislative Assembly increased its own budget by 900,000 colones. This is nothing if not humiliating for any president who takes pride in his power.

In short, the current crisis demonstrates that Duarte has neither power nor support among either the masses or the right wing. Duarte is merely a puppet president who finds his only support in the dollars that Reagan sends him in order to maintain his facade and to strengthen and bolster the right wing's position in power.

GUATEMALA

RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS DEMONSTRATE

PA161610 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Relatives of missing persons today [15 January] protested in front of the Attorney General's Office.

Approximately 100 members of the Mutual Support Group staged a demonstration in front of the Attorney General's Office building this afternoon to demand the reappearance, alive, of over 200 people who have disappeared in the last few years. The demonstrators, most of whom were women, carried placards criticizing the Tripartite Commission, which is composed of the attorney general, the deputy defense minister, and the government minister. They said that the investigations are a sham because they were promised a report on the investigations over a month ago and to date no one knows anything about the wherabouts of the missing persons.

At 1500 today the members of the Mutual Support Group stood in front of the building for 1 hour demanding to see the attorney general, but they were not successful. Seeing their hopes dashed, the demonstrators blocked traffic for 1 hour and 10 minutes at 8th Street and 4th Avenue in Zone 1 and then left in silence.

Some of the relatives of the missing persons criticized government spokesman Ramon Zelada Carrillo, who in recent statements to the press said that many of the missing persons are having a nice time in the United States.

Finally, the demonstrators said that in view of the failure of the investigations of the Tripartite Commission and the deception of which they have been victims, they will appear in front of the Attorney General's Office every Friday to demand the reappearance, alive, of their missing relatives. They added that the Tripartite Commission has given no response since it was created and that all it has done is to promise to deliver reports on its investigations, but nothing is ever learned about the results.

EGP COMMANDER DISCUSSES ACTIONS, PROGRESS

PA231653 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 21 Jan 85 p 16

[ENFOPRENSA report by Miguel Say]

[Text] The trek begun in 1972 in the mountains of northwestern Guatemala by the first combatants of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) has not been easy, EGP Commander in Chief Rolando Moran stated in a document issued on the 13th anniversary of the EGP's founding. The organization is one of the four that comprise the URNG.

After 13 years of underground work, the EGP began hostilities with a military operation in the northwestern Department of El Quiche on 7 June 1975. Since then Guatemala's successive military regimes have been unable to conceal the EGP's important actions.

At present, despite the large-scale offensive launched by the government Army, particularly in the area where the EGP operates, it continues to stage harassments, attacks, and ambushes and constantly clashes with government troops.

In 1984, the EGP inflicted an average of 54 casualties on government troops each month, seized military weapons, and more importantly, prevented the Army from consolidating its counterinsurgency programs and its plans to control the population en masse. It did this despite the scorch land policy and the concentration of peasants by force in model villages with the economic, political, and social cost such efforts entail for the government.

The revolutionary movement has important political tasks to fulfill in response to this, particularly because of the threatening buildup of U.S. presence in the area, the EGP commander in chief said. "These threats have produced an environment heavy with tense political and military moves that will require renewed efforts and greater strength to increase the level of revolutionary action," the leader added.

"In essence," Commander Moran said, "the plans that the military government of Mejia Victores seeks to implement this year, which the bourgeois political forces have accommodated and support, and from which the middle class parties believe they have something to gain, mark the beginning of a new phase."

"This phase includes farce, more contradictions, a dead-end street, increase in popular struggles, repression, and augmented revolutionary action. It is cyclical and as it repeats itself, it does so with logical and expectable variations in the spiral of new social and economic development," the leader pointed out. He noted that "it will not find stability or a solution so long as revolutionary triumph does not come."

The leader recalled that many basic aspects of the current political situation were observed in 1977 and 1978. He said that some are unfavorable with regard to the full conclusion of the so-called democratic opening or to the implementation of a program of social reforms.

One of these elements, he said, is that "the revolutionary movement is now an organized movement with roots, it is much more mature politically, and it has a proven military capability tested through years of counterinsurgency offensives led by specialists." The revolutionary movement is developing, organizing itself, and becoming more united, the EGP commander continued. "The exploited, oppressed, poor, and discriminated against now possess an awareness of the need to conduct struggle and popular warfare that is being forged by years of the most savage and genocidal repression known to Latin America."

"The dominating classes," he warned, continue to govern in a country that they can no longer control, despite the enormous investment in the repressive apparatus." In this regard, the general expenditure budget of Guatemala has decreased relative to 1984, while it has increased in the area of defense, for which 198.4 million quetzales were appropriated. This represents an increase of 37.5 percent in defense spending.

The rebel commander foresees the beginning of a new phase of the popular war in Guatemala, determined above all by "the development of the struggle by popular masses and the consolidation and unification of organizations." He concluded by saying: "The subjective factors have matured a great deal, experiences have been very rich and the revolutionary, popular, and democratic spirit is becoming more profound and widespread."

URNG CLAIMS GUERRILLAS OCCUPY FOUR TOWNS

PA231928 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] The guerrillas occupied four towns in El Peten Department between 10 and 13 January, according to a telex made public yesterday by the URNG. The report stated that the Los Laureles and El Tintal cooperatives and El Toro lots in La Libertad municipality were occupied. The guerrillas also occupied the town of El Pollo, located at km 22 on the Flores-Belize road. The report added that on 10 January, a government vehicle transporting material for a road being built by the Army between El Subin and the Bethel cooperative in La Libertad municipality was completely destroyed.

11 KILLED, 5 WOUNDED IN ARMY-GUERRILLA CLASHES

PA221820 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 1740 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] According to official reports, the Army and the subversive groups clashed four times in the interior over the weekend. As a result, 11 people died and at least 5 others were wounded. Five of those killed were soldiers, five others were subversives, and the other person was a civilian patrolman.

The most serious incident occurred in (Sumaya) village, north of Nebaj, where the insurgents killed two soldiers and also sustained casualties. A soldier was also injured, as was apparently also the case with several insurgents, but this latter information could not be confirmed.

Another clash occurred in Dolores municipality, Peten, where two soldiers died. The number of casualties sustained by the subversives is not yet known.

Elsewhere in Peten, in (Grano de Oro) village, [name indistinct] municipality, a soldier, member of a vigilance patrol that clashed with a subversive group, also died.

The latest clashes between the Army and the guerrillas occurred in Esquipulas, [name indistinct] San Marcos, where three extremists were killed and four soldiers were wounded.

In addition, the Army rescued 64 peasants who had been under the subversives' control in (Tacsiman) village, north of Nebaj, Quiche, according to another Army communique. According to the report, a military patrol and a subversive group clashed there. Upon seeing that they had been discovered, the insurgents abandoned the peasants, whom they had forced to accompany them.

HONDURAS

EDITORIAL QUESTIONS FOREIGN POLICY'S CONSISTENCY

PA181726 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 85 p 7

[Editorial: "Fagoth and Our Policy"]

[Text] The "invitation" that immigration authorities recently extended to anti-Sandinist leader Steadman Fagoth to leave Honduras for some other country has raised several questions regarding our foreign policy and forces us to consider the cohesiveness of the various government organizations with regard to this policy.

The first thing to consider is that for a long time, the Honduran Government firmly denied that groups fighting Nicaragua's Marxist regime were present in the country, despite the fact that leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, freely and without any pressure often made statements to U.S. journalists and dicussed their activities in our country.

However, it has recently been proven that there really are groups of combatants settled here and that they come and go between Honduras and Nicaragua. The manner in which the Fagoth case was handled was misleading, to say the least.

On one hand, the foreign secretary indicated that Fagoth had been detained and would be expelled from the country, while on the other hand, the immigration director said that Fagoth had not been detained, but that he would be asked to leave for the country of his choice.

There is a remarkable difference between the two statements, which reveals two widely differing stances by two of the officials involved in the case.

In addition, our relations with the United States have gone through ups and downs. At times, Washington proclaims a great friendship with Honduras, while at other times the United States pressures Honduras to pay compensation to a Puerto Rican who owned, illegally that is, the land where the Regional Military Training and Security Center, CREM, was built.

Our country's demands for a better U.S. economic and military deal with Honduras are very healthy for the national dignity.

It is evident, however, that the presentation of the demands does not necessarily guarantee a positive response to the request. The report published by the IDB on certain demands, namely, the devaluation of the national currency, indicates that not all runs smoothly in Washington-Tegucigalpa relations.

Perhaps the instability in Central America has been the cause of some of the waverings in our foreign policy and the persistent changes of course that are not always understood by everyone. These changes can be explained, however. We cannot maintain a rigid stance in the face of changing, dynamic circumstances.

At any rate, however, it seems logical to ask, clearly and accurately: What is our stance vis-a-vis countries such as Guatemala, which has strayed from the stance taken by most of the Central American countries, and regarding our relations with El Salvador, considering this country's discreet enthusiasm regarding the border issue, particularly at the Gulf of Fonseca?

These are delicate matters and not all of them can be discussed in public. The press understands this perfectly.

This newspaper considers that the high-ranking government officials in the various organizations should at least have everything clear in their minds and act accordingly.

The Fagoth incident has revealed that the consistency we have discussed does not always lie within reach. For the good of Honduras, it would be worthwhile to seek the opinions of the Honduran people on these matters which are of vital concern to the nation.

Only a ship captain who knows for sure where he is heading can arrive at port safe and sound. Confusion and disagreement in matters so delicate could be the harbinger of greater problems that should be prevented before they threaten the national interest.

BRIEFS

SPANISH, BRITISH AMBASSADORS -- New Spanish Ambassador Fernando Gonzalez Camino Garcia Obregon presented his credentials to President Roberto Suazo Cordova and Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica yesterday. He replaces German de Caso y Ridura. In addition, new British Ambassador Bryan Oliver White presented his credentials to the president and the foreign secretary yesterday. He replaces John Sharkey. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Jan 85 p 2 PA]

NICARAGUA

IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES VISIT

Meets With Ramirez

LD241317 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, Jan 24, IRNA -- Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who is currently visiting Nicaragua, Wednesday night [23 January] met and conferred with Nicaraguan Vice-President Sergio Ramirez. Musavi later took part in a reception held in his honor by Ramirez, in which members of the delegation accompanying the prime minister were also present. Musavi arrived in Nicaragua for a two-day official visit Wednesday and was welcomed by the Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, members of the cabinet, and a number of military and civilian officials.

Musavi and his entourage on Wednesday paid tribute to the Nicaraguan national soldier by laying a wreath of flower on his tomb. While signing the memorial book at the tomb Musavi wrote: "With the hope for the victory of the oppressed people and their sovereignty."

Musavi heads a delegation comprising Minister of State in Charge of Executive Affairs Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari and officials of Foreign Affairs and Commerce Ministries. Enroute to Nicaragua the prime minister had a stopover in Havana, Cuba, where he was welcomed by Cuban President Fidel Castro, and a number of other high-ranking officials.

Discusses Military Situation

LD250927 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, Jan. 25, IRNA -- Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, currently visiting Nicaragua, met and conferred with Nicaragua's Brigade Commander and member of the Sandinist Army Julio Ramos in Managua on Thursday.

Outlining counterrevolutionary activities in his country, the Nicaraguan commander said that during the past three years defence force had killed 7,000 counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua. He added that by the end of 1983, the Nicaraguan Government had equipped popular forces and had set up seven special brigades to fight against counterrevolutionaries.

Referring to U.S. political and military provocations against Nicaragua, Ramos noted that the U.S. had turned Honduras into a big aircraft carrier against Nicaragua, had established a flight training centre in the region, and was constantly making reconnaissance flights. The objective of all these maneuvers, he added, was to attack Nicaragua as an imaginary enemy for which, he stressed, Nicaragua had prepared itself to the possible extent. To this end, he said, 40 percent of the current year's budget has been allocated to defence expenses and according to plans underway, 65,000 trained marines would start operations against counterrevolutionaries by the second half of the current year to deal effective blows on them and make them withdraw to Honduras.

In reply, Musavi hoped that the fight with counterrevolutionaries would not hinder implementation of economic and social plans.

Later, the prime minister visited an army hospital for the injured of the war and talked to a number of patients there. "We do not seek war and rather support peace, but when they fight with us we have to give them a response. We support a free homeland or otherwise death," said one of the wounded while speaking to Prime Minister Musavi. Another wounded, thanking Musavi for visiting his country, praised Iran's support for Nicaragua.

Later in the day, Prime Minister Musavi met and conferred with Nicaraguan Minister of Agricultural Development Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman. During the meeting, Musavi wished success for Nicaraguan Government and people and stressed that to remove the bottlenecks, the Islamic Republic of Iran would always be beside Nicaragua. Then, Musavi and the Nicaraguan minister visited a sugar refinery and sugar cane fields located 26 km from Managua. The sugar refinery, which will start operation by late March, in its early stages will refine 400,000 tons of sugar every year. A sum of 240 million dollars has been invested for the construction of the refinery.

Meanwhile, three cultural, economic and political committees, comprising officials of the two countries, discussed matters of mutual interests.

FRG'S MOELLEMANN MEETS GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION

PA241602 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Juergen Moellemann, the FRG's minister of state in the Foreign Ministry, who arrived yesterday on a 2-day official visit, will meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, a source from the Government House has announced.

Today, the influential West German official met with Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman and discussed the counterrevolutionary attacks as well as the efforts pursued in all directions by our government in its effort to achieve peace. Moellemann also met with leaders of the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board, and with Juigalpa Archbishop Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, who is currently president of the Episcopal Conference. Moellemann will also meet tomorrow with Agrarian Reform Minister Commander Jaime Wheelock, members of the National Assembly, and with Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

Minister of State Juergen Moellemann will hold a press conference for national and foreign journalists tomorrow at 1000 at the Intercontinental Hotel before leaving the country.

Hold Press Conference

PA250422 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0315 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] FRG Minister of State in the Foreign Ministry Juergen Moellemann has just held a press conference on some aspects of his visit to Nicaragua. He refused to disclose the nature of the topics discussed with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, other government officials, and the church hierarchy, arguing that he does not want his minister to learn of his activities through the newspapers and international media. However, he discussed his country's international policy.

He said that the FRG is trying to get the United States to support Contadora instead of opposing it. He also said that the region's problems cannot be solved through violence and war and added that the FRG is making all possible efforts to reconciliate all countries and attain a peaceful solution. He then said: For this reason, we support Contadora. We believe this is the only way and an excellent basis for a reconciliation in the Central American area.

In addition, he expressed hopes that the Contadora Group can meet 14 and 15 February and complete talks in a friendly manner. Later, he said he hopes that the FRG and Nicaragua can have fruitful relations. This can best be achieved by having Nicaragua and all countries involved attend a meeting in Europe of the EEC, Central American, and Contadora foreign ministers during the second half of this year.

U.S. CITIZENS DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY

PA241659 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1621 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpt] We will now contact Oscar Alvarez who is with our mobile unit in front of the U.S. Embassy.

[Begin report] At this time, a demonstration against the U.S. Government's policy is taking place in front of the U.S. Embassy in Managua. The demonstration is being held by the Committee of U.S. Citizens Residing in Nicaragua.

There are several posters, including one in English that reads: Peace With Dignity, Nonintervention. This poster was painted in colors by U.S. citizens residing in Nicaragua. Other posters read: CIA, Out of Central America, and other harsh phrases against the U.S. Government.

We have been informed that more than 20 statements from U.S. citizens opposing the U.S. policy against Nicaragua and Central America are being read at this demonstration. Right now a female U.S. citizen is reading her statement at the entrance to the U.S. Embassy. [end report]

COMMANDER TORRES DISCUSSES 1985 DEFENSE TASKS

PA242054 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] "It is true that 1985 will be a difficult year but it is also true that it will be a year of victory." This statement was made by Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the political section of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], while informing the country's teachers about the main military defense tasks for the year.

Commander Torres explained that after having analyzed the activities of the mercenary forces and the people's struggle for their sovereignty, especially last year, the FSLN National Directorate decided that a 1985-86 objective will be "to break up the mercenary forces and eliminate them by making efforts that will be greater than those made up until now." This is the purpose of enrolling thousands of young people who will fulfill their Patriotic Military Service [SMP] and form new combat detachments "until we have a formidable force that will overwhelmingly hit the mercenary army."

Commander Torres cautioned that as during the elections period, the political parties that play a part in imperialism's general plan in the country's interior will attack the SMP and the revolution to weaken defense. "They will try to create a climate of anguish and unrest among mothers who have children at the age for enrollment in the SMP in order to obstruct this defense effort," Commander Torres said. For this reason, he asked teachers and "all revolutionaries to be alert and to decisively and strongly face these manipulations and attacks."

Torres said that the FSLN National Directorate is studying how to best use the efforts of the organized people to support the priority task of defense and the battle to stop speculation, bring prices down, and increase production and work efficiency.

The commander said that the teachers who belong to the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers will have the very important task "of making the SMP law known and explaining its obligatory character to the young people and their relatives and making them understand that this effort is necessary to restore peace and have a normal situation in the country within a brief or relatively brief period of time."

The leader reported on the important blows that the EPS has inflicted on the CIA's mercenaries throughout almost 6 years of revolution. These blows have prevented the mercenaries from carrying out their plans to set fire to cities and increase their counterrevolutionary presence in more areas of the country for propaganda purposes.

He said that a characteristic of 1984 was an increase in counterrevolutionary activities, which were better organized. The Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the CIA's terrorist arm against our country, took the form of "regional commands," which have been systematically supplied by planes and helicopters and have had a well-organized and well-supplied rearguard. Their objectives were outlined in the "Harvest" plan and, more recently, in the "New Harvest" plan which were aimed at important cities, first during the election period, trying to make the elections appear illegitimate, and later during the coffee harvest season.

In addition to this "general offensive" by the CIA, which prepared the abstention maneuvers of the "Coordinating Board," Arturo Cruz, and the church hierarchy prepared conditions for a direct U.S. intervention during President Reagan's second term in office.

Commander Torres explained that the breakoff of the Manzanillo talks, the disregard for The Hague International Court of Justice, and the pressure on Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador to abandon Contadora are "a dangerous indication of what could happen in the next few months or years because this is evidence of the current U.S. Administration's little, or absence of, political will for a peaceful solution."

Torres said that by applying these measures, President Reagan is trying to force the U.S. Congress into choosing between two alternatives: a military intervention or a new budget for the mercenaries. "The danger of a direct military intervention is still latent," Torres said. The commander called on the people to join the territorial militai to wage an active resistance war in case the political and diplomatic efforts of Nicaragua and other countries are unable to stop imperialism.

TIRADO VIEWS MILITARY, ECONOMIC POLICY

PA181303 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] Reagan's policy is not eternal. It will collapse any time because it represents a mistake, not only for the United States, but for the world capitalist system, Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado said last night in a speech to leaders of many unions affiliated with the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers [CST].

Tirado, who was accompanied by CST Secretary General Lucio Jimenez, Association of Agricultural Workers Secretary General Edgardo Garcia, and leaders of the main associations of professionals, explained the scope of the revolution's programs for 1985. He said: "Our main task is to stamp out, to dismantle, the mercenary forces on a priority basis through a sustained military effort, which will be backed by the country's resources."

"We must end the price gouging and speculation" as a complementary task in this effort to consolidate and move forward with the revolutionary process, Tirado added.

Commander Tirado stressed that the imperialist policy toward Nicaragua and other backward countries is a terrorist policy aimed at destroying their economic independence through financial embargoes or military aggression, as is the case with Nicaragua. "The Reagan administration is something new in U.S. foreign policy. It has legalized the U.S. military actions and its aggressions against other countries in violation of international laws. The United States glorifies the right to wage war and arrogates the right to sanction the countries that are not on its side."

He added: However, this policy, which has aggravated conflicts in various parts of the world, is becoming untenable and will be defeated sooner or later. It is through this perspective that "we have set out to end the war of attrition and to avoid a U.S. invasion. This means that we will continue our efforts through Contadora and friendly countries and that we must bring in more friends, allies, and collaborators."

Thus, "we will move ahead with the revolution in accordance with the historical plan. We will continue to pursue our policy of nonalignment, political pluralism, and mixed economy and all theprinciples in our program."

However, as the revolution develops, a main concern is to defend real wages and the well-being of the workers. For this reason it is necessary to put an end to speculation and inflation. Tirado explained that the speculation was inherited from the past and developed during the revolution while it was busy attending to other urgent problems in the health, housing, and education sectors. However, "we want to change this situation and it is possible to do so," he said, urging the workers to take an active part in this struggle. He also called for increased production and productivity because only through more efforts by the workers will the revolution be able to gather strength in order to develop the country.

MSGR VEGA PRAISES PROMULGATION OF AMNESTY LAW

PA241607 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, praised the revolutionary government's decision to grant amnesty to all members of the counterrevolutionary groups who deliver or surrender their weapons to competent authorities.

He said that the promulgation of the law falls within the aspirations and desires expressed by the Episcopal Conference in the sense that the amnesty should be broad and have ample guarantees for those who accept it.

[Begin recording] [Vega] We praise the fact that the law was promulgated. As for the consequences of accepting or refusing the amnesty offer, well, that is something else. The law itself seems to be adequate, and falls within the aspirations and desires of the conference in the sense that the amnesty had to be broadened and offer better guarantees for those who accept it. However, we cannot give an opinion on the actions taken by others.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the talks between the church and the government?

[Vega] [Words indistinct] [end recording]

With the naivete that characterizes the Episcopal Conference and echoing the opinions expressed by vested interest, Msgr Vega said that the Nicaraguan crisis is a consequence of the East-West confrontation. He condemned the arms race, but refused to condemn the U.S. imperialism's constant attacks.

MSGR VEGA DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS, ARMS BUILDUP

PA231313 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[By Normal Talavera]

[Excerpts] Acoyapa -- The bishop of Chontales, Msgr Pablo A. Vega, made an appeal here yesterday to Christian people to struggle patriotically to find freedom in the country and enforce respect for the human rights of the Nicaraguan people. "We must be courageous soldiers in seeking freedom in the country and for our people and struggle so that the people's rights are respected," Msgr Vega said in his homily.

Msgr Vega strongly exhorted the people to unite "because only in this way can we resist any system imposed on us from abroad." He encouraged the people not to be afraid to demand respect for their rights, "because a citizen loses his status if he is denied his rights. We do not have to be slaves in our own home or country."

Without being specific, the president of the Episcopal Conference charged that "these regimes intimidate the people to keep them from talking and making their own decisions. We should not fear, as we are Nicaraguans. We are not in a strange land and do not have to hide our protests and demands for respect for our rights; but let us not resort to armed action," he noted.

Criticizing the arms buildup, the prelate said that in the past Nicaragua had some 5,000 soldiers. "Today there are 120,000 soldiers, and we are killing each other, because the dead here are not North Americans, Cubans, or Soviets. In the end, the dead end up with only a tag identifying the body," he declared.

"Christians must not be indifferent before what is happening in Nicaragua or before the people or God." He said Christians do not have to kneel to demand their citizen's rights. "Nicaraguans are now facing a test. Christians must rise, because a Christian never falls," he said, adding: "Christ never used weapons. He does not want violent men with weapons but men of courage like Saint Sebastian."

He exhorted youths not to allow anyone to impose on them the will of any party or political ideology that confuses the defense of the fatherland's sovereignty with that of a political system.

In his homily Msgr Vega reaffirmed the sanctions the church is applying against the priests who, holding the rank of government ministers, are offering political services to the Sandinist government. "No priest should be at the service of any political system, particularly at the service of a system that does not recognize the existence of God," he noted. He explained that the laws sanctioning the priests at the service of Sandinism are universal and are not only applied by the Nicaraguan church.

Briefly referring to his talks with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, he said that some people in Nicaragua had expectations because of his talks with Castro. "I saw in him as just another man, because we are all sinners."

PARTIES CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE

PA231250 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The country's political parties have signed a document to respond to what they call a campaign against the national dialogue at a meeting held last night at the headquarters of the Constitutional Liberal Party. According to the political leaders, this document is a reply to attempts to distort, discredit, and discourage the partriotic initiative for the reestablishment of a national dialogue.

The Workers Revolutionary Party has announced that it will meet to discuss and define its participation in the efforts to resume the national dialogue. The position of the Popular Social Christian Party is considered contradictory and confusing in light of its absence from the last two meetings and statements by its leaders.

The delegates of the political parties explained that the national dialogue they are promoting is different from the National Assembly. They have different objectives on national reconciliation and the enactment of laws.

It was decided that a special commission of four parties shall have the power to convoke the political parties participating in this initiative to reestablish the national dialogue. The convocation can be made at any time deemed appropriate and in line with the national and international situation affecting the country's stability.

The political parties consider it necessary to address the Nicaraguan people to state the following:

1. Since 15 December 1984 we have been promoting a joint effort with the object of resuming the national dialogue, which was suspended on 30 November 1984.

2. Nine parties worked on and drafted on 3 January 1985 a document entitled "Minimum Agreements and Proposals for the Resumption of the National Dialogue." These minimum proposals were transmitted to the other political parties that had not yet participated in the talks for the resumption of the national dialogue. At the same time, these parties were invited to participate in a meeting of all of the country's political parties.

3. However, the official news media has unleashed a huge campaign to distort, discredit, and discourage our patriotic initiative.

4. The principle theme of this campaign is that the national dialogue is unnecessary because the political parties had agreed that the dialogue could only be held in the National Assembly and because our initiative pursues a parallel body that is an alternative or opposition to the assembly.

5. These arguments and accusations are untrue and without basis in fact, because the agreement of the political parties signed on 22 October 1984 calls for "a national dialogue in which all the political, social, and economic forces of the country will participate in the effort that all Nicaraguans have the duty to make for peace, stability, and the progress of the nation." The national dialogue does not attempt to detract from the sovereign integrity of the National Assembly, which has its specific functions to legislate and draft a constitution, but is rather directed at reaching agreements of a national scope to unite all Nicaraguans in the search for peace, democratic stability, and the progress of the nation.

6. The FSLN and the country's government, in the first presidential message by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra on 10 January 1985, agreed to support and implement tne agreement of political parties, which includes, we repeat, the convoking and holding of a national dialogue.

7. We deplore the FSLN's failure to reply to our initiative to reestablish a national dialogue and consequently the other points of the agreement that it claims to support.

8. We remain determined to resume the national dialogue, which is urgently needed to unite patriotically the efforts of the whole nation around agreements of national consensus that will permit us to undertake a search for specific, effective, and immediate solutions to reestablish the country's peace, tranquillity, and stability as indispensable conditions to face the crisis and ensure the prosperity of the nation and social progress.

9. We will continue to maintain bilateral and multilateral contacts and consultations in favor of a national dialogue, aware of the fact that the general crisis in the land is worsening every day and that the uncontainable aggravation of the national situation will, in the final analysis, require abandoning intransigent attitudes to open a path to reach patriotic agreements of national consensus.

Managua, 18 January 1985

[Signed] Independent Liberal Party, Social Christian Party, Communist Party of Nicaragua, Constitutionalist Liberal Party, Social Democratic Party, Nicaraguan Socialist Party, Unionist Central American Party.

PSN'S SANCHEZ ON IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA241924 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Jan 85 p 1, 12

[Text] Socialist leader Luis Sanchez told LA PRENSA: The national dialogue -- the main agreement reached in the meeting of Nicaraguan political parties who disagree with the FSLN government and policy -- remains firm, although the FSLN has refused to participate in it. According to Sanchez, the national dialogue continues to be the best alternative, according to Nicaragua's opposition, to help partially resolve national problems.

During an interview with a LA PRENSA reporter, Sanchez, who is secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN], discussed a party meeting that took place last night during which the PSN's stance regarding the FSLN's refusal and the dangerous situation that has affected the country in the past few days were viewed.

Sanchez said: "We believe that the national dialogue continues to be imperative due to the extremely difficult circumstances the country is experiencing. These circumstances tend to be aggravated as time passes."

Later, Sanchez said: "We view with great concern the deterioration in international efforts which have been made to attain peace in Central America, to negotiate, such as the U.S. Government's determination to suspend the Manzanillo talks, the crisis of the Contadora Group's pacification effort, the suspension of the dialogue with the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity scheduled to have been held in Bogota, and friction with neighboring countries. All of this contributes to this permanent crisis that hampers all efforts at pacification."

Then, he added: "These facts indicate that international efforts to reach an understanding among the country's political forces to find a solution to the crisis are now needed more urgently than ever."

Sanchez said: "Nevertheless, we have been disappointed by the FSLN's rejection of the invitation extended by the 10 political parties to meet and discuss the resumption of the national dialogue." He asserted: "On the one hand, the FSLN has asserted its willingness to accept the accords reached at the political parties' meeting, which were announced on 22 October 1984, while, on the other hand, the FSLN refuses to participate in the national dialogue, which is the main accord of the political parties leaders' meeting. Moved by a spirit of a highly patriotic responsibility, however, we expressed our willingness to support a national dialogue during last night's meeting."

Sanchez stressed: "Although it is true that a national dialogue will not solve the country's serious problems, a dialogue would still be a feasible way of reaching a national consensus leading to the country's democratization and to facing our economic and social crisis, all of which the Nicaraguan people long for."

Asked about the stance that is likely to be adopted by the political parties, particularly the PSN, if the FSLN continues to reject a national dialogue, he said: "It is evident that the FSLN will continue to reject a national dialogue as an important political alternative. At the same time, however, the problems will worsen and become more difficult to solve. For this reason, we continue to have faith in a national dialogue. We also trust that the FSLN will consider this situation objectively and judiciously and correct the decision it has made. Just as the FSLN announces an amnesty for counterrevolutionaries, it should seek accords with political parties that disagreeing with the FSLN and government policy, as is their right, continue their civic and peaceful struggle."

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT APPOINTS WORK COMMISSIONS

PA250209 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] A total of 10 commissions were appointed yesterday by Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, during the Assembly's first ordinary session. Nine of these commissions will be temporary until the Assembly's bylaws are approved. This task was assigned to the Justice Commission whose members will have 15 days to present the draft before the plenum. These commissions have been formed as follows:

Finance and Popular Consumption Commission: Guerrilla Commander Leticia Herrera, Isidro Tellez, Julio Marenco Caldera, Ronaldo Quintanilla, Ramon Gomez, Blas Espinoza Corrales, Glenda Monterrey, Ramon Larios, Alejandro Ugarde Balladares, and Erasmo Montoya.

Foreign Affairs Commission: Rogelio Ramirez, Luis Sanchez Salgado, Danilo Aguirre Solis, Luis Humberto Guzman, Sixto Ulloa, Lily Soto, Jose Luis Villavicencio, Ulises Perales, Manuel Salvador Lopez L., Herty Lewites, and Ray Hoocker.

Defense and Interior Commission: Rafael Cordova Rivas, Federico Lopez, Subcommander Serafin Garcia, Antonio Jarquin, Gladys Baez, Oscar Abarca, Alejandro Guevara, Subcommander Francisco Jarquin, Jose Simon Delgado, Lucas Urbina, and Leoncio Rayos.

Production and Agrarian Reform Commission: Samuel Amador, Gustavo Mendoza, Juan Tijerino, Ariel Bravo, Daniel Nunez, Wilfredo Lopez, Ramiro Lacayo, Luis Chavarria, Subcommander Heriberto Rodriguez, Carlos Alonso, and Elias Chavez.

Labor and Social Security Commission: Nathan Sevilla, Allan Zambrana, Uriel Guevara, Gerardo Alfaro Silva, Ramon Zanabria, Jose A. Arauz, Virgilio Godoy, Jesus Hernandez, Edgardo Garcia, Hazel Law, Felix Pedro Espinoza, and Lucio Jimenez.

Health and Social Welfare Commission: Clemente Guido, Macario Estrada, Carlos Arguello, Carlos Cuadra, Irela Prado, Eduardo Zapata, Alfonso Lopez, and Miguel Gonzalez H.

Education and Culture Commission: Mauricio Diaz Davila, Augusto C. Castillo, Carlos Mejia Godoy, Rosario Murillo, Camilo Zapata, Jose Maria Ruiz, Alberto Danilo Lugo, Francisco Boedecker, Blanca Bermudez Correa, and Sergio Torres Obregario.

Justice Commission: Subcommander Rafael Solis, Humberto Solis B., Eduaro Molina, Rafael Mairena, Reinaldo A. Tefel, Carlos Carrion, Alfredo Rodriguez F., Jose Daniel Brenes, Benigna Mendiola, and Flor de Maria Monterrey.

Community Services Commission: Domingo Sanchez, Eduardo Coronado, Eligio Palacios, Orlando Pineda Lopez, Javier Moncada, Maria Teresa Delgado Martinez, Victorino Espinales, Enrique Sotelo Borgen, Santos Roque Bervis, Dorotea Wilson, and Commander Dora Maria Tellez.

A special commission was also appointed for the implementation of the agreements reached during the summit of political parties. This commission is formed by: Subcommander Rafael Solis, Mauricio Diaz, Luis Sanchez, Ariel Bravo, Carlos Cuadra, Reinaldo A. Tefel, Humberto Solis, Rafael Cordova Rivas, Juan Manuel Gutierrez, Flor de Maria Monterrey, Rogelio Ramirez, and Danilo Aguirre Solis.

PLI'S GODOY, PCDN'S ESPINOSA SWORN IN AS DEPUTIES

PA250254 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, this afternoon swore in Virgilio Godoy Reyes, president of the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, and Felix Pedro Espinosa, Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, PCDN, as deputies to the National Assembly. Julian Corrales, member of the CSE, swore them in as Dr Godoy replied with a mumbled "yes" that was barely audible.

Both Godoy and Espinosa took an abstentionist position during the 4 November elections.

MISURASATA LEADERS SAY RIVERA EXPULSION 'PLOT'

PA241436 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The expulsion and disavowal of Brooklyn Rivera is part of a plot. In a communique issued in our capital, the leaders and leading cadres of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] stated that Brooklyn Rivera's expulsion is a plot hatched by the enemies of hte Indians' struggle to continue reaping political advantages at the expense of the Nicaraguan Indians' tragedy.

The manifesto signed by (Marcos Hopinton), Samuel Mercado, (Julian Holmes), and (William Feston) reaffirms the people's determination and the correct leadership of the authentic struggle headed by the indisputable leader of the Indian cause, that is Brooklyn Rivera.

In addition, the group also stated that Rivera was elected in the Indian Assembly by the popular and sovereign will of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama peoples of the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast. Therefore, they are the only ones empowered to remove him from his post.

PASTORA LEAVES FOR U.S.; MEETINGS PLANNED

PA240426 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2238 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] San Jose, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Eden Pastora, the anti-Sandinist Commander Cero, traveled to Washington today to meet with U.S. Government officials and counterrevolutionary leaders of his country.

According to information released in this capital by the sources associated with the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, ARDE, faction that Pastora heads, he will try to meet in Washington with Robert McFarlane, national security adviser to the Reagan administration.

The sources added that Commander Cero will also meet with Arturo J. Cruz, former candidate for the opposition Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board during the elections. Cruz now lives in Washington.

The source asserted that a meeting has been scheduled between Pastora and Adolfo Calero, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, another anti-Sandinist organization, who is in Washington on a visit.

For 2 years, Pastora has refused a military alliance with the FDN, which he describes as "Somozist."

'OUR AMERICA' SAYS AREA FEARS SANDINIST EXAMPLE

PA212153 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Central American governments, which in one way or another lend themselves to the political and military actions that the United States promotes against Nicaragua, fear the example the Sandinist revolution offers to their respective peoples. There is no other explanation when one looks at the record of provocations that are carried out against Nicaraguan territory with the consent of those governments. To remain aloof or silent in the face of criminal action is to become an accomplice to it, especially when one takes into consideration the fact that the Sandinist revolution does not pose a threat to any of the region's countries, is not a warmongering state, and has stated dozens of times its determination to maintain good relations with all the world's governments. Therefore, fear of the revolutionary example of the land of Sandino is the only explanation for the attitude assumed by those countries, which in practical terms do nothing more than allow themselves to be manipulated by the U.S. Government, which is indeed interested in destroying the Sandininst revolution because it has upset the United States' geopolitical strategy in Central America.

Another element that breeds hostility against the new Nicaragua is vested economic interest. Moved by the pledge of new credit and long-term financial support, area governments lend themselves to the United States' schemes against the young Nicaraguan revolution. However, none of the aggressions against the Sandinist revolution has been able to weaken it; on the contrary, each year it becomes stronger and consolidates further the people's social and economic achievements despite the high cost in human lives and material resources that the new Nicaragua must pay for the attacks by mercenary groups based in Honduras and Costa Rica.

The Sandinist revolution has also countered these attacks. Thousands of counterrevolutionaries have been killed or wounded in close to 6 years of aggression against Nicaragua's revolutionary power. The operations of the Sandinist People's Army and the battalions of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry have had very good results. In the past 11 days these forces have caused the counterrevolutionaries more than 370 casualties, 300 of which were fatalities. The most imporatnt clashes took place in areas of Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, and Esteli Departments. Mercenary groups were operating in those areas and were organized into regional commands. Their main actions were directed against helpless civilians and government economic targets. Of these the destruction of four power lines in Jinotega and 10 attacks against peasant production units can be cited as examples. The mercenaries also kidnapped 12 people during this period of time. To these actions in those 11 days must be added 35 violations of Nicaraguan airspace and territorial waters by aircraft and vessels belonging to the United States and other Central American countries. These violations took place mostly in Chinandega Department.

These are the actions that the United States and other Central American Governments allied with Washington carry out in their attempt to destroy the Sandinist revolution, which in every case has shown moderation, responsibility, and patience toward its enemies. To those who still believe that Sandino's people will be brought to their knees, it would be good to send them back in time to the last popular demonstration that took place in Managua on 10 January after the inauguration of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, when hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans cheered the revolution and chanted the slogan of "Free Fatherland or Death."

COMMENTARY ON HONDURAS AS AMERICAS SCHOOL SITE

PA231938 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Jan 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Last year the School of the Americas stopped operating in Panama. The United States sponsored this institute that trains soldiers of Latin American armies. Thousands of troops have been trained in its classroom to prepare to struggle against insurgents and to engage in intelligence operations and commando-type activities.

It is said that some of the most renowned Latin American dictators perfected their military training there, particularly activities dealing with counterinsurgency. The closing of the School of the Americas in Panama by virtue of the canal treaties signed by the Panamanian and U.S. Governments, does not mean that this institute will disappear.

The U.S. Pentagon has already chosen the site for the installation of this military training center, whose study plans, according to U.S. Defense Department spokesmen, will be revised to incorporate in them the so-called most advanced military training methods. The chosen site is Honduras, where the government is currently studying the exact spot for its location.

The decision to install this school in that Central American nation has elicited the rejection of some Honduran officials, who believe that the operation of the School of the Americas in Honduras would be harmful to the country's sovereignty. Such is the opinion of some members of the Innovation and Unity Party and the Christian Democratic Party. Similarly, several worker organizations have voiced their rejection of any government decision that permits the installation in Honduras of the military institute mentioned above. They claim that such a thing would further aggravate the political crisis in the country.

The Honduran press reported that the installation of the School of the Americas in Honduras has been submitted for consideration by high-level commissions of the Honduran and U.S. Governments, which are currently negotiating the revision of the military and cooperation agreements signed by both governments in 1954.

According to government sources, within this context Honduras proposed the signing of a military alliance and the establishment in the country of a permanent U.S. base.

The same sources indicated that the subject had been discussed by the Honduran President and Harry Shlaudeman, special U.S. ambassador for Central America. The possibility of establishing the School of the Americas on Honduran territory emerged in 1983 and the Aguacate Base was mentioned at that time as the possible installation site. This base is located in Olancho Department, northeast of Tegucigalpa.

That military base was built in October of that year by 200 U.S. engineers as part of the joint "Big Pine II" maneuvers. Nevertheless, this geographic location has seemingly been dismissed. The U.S. Puerto Castilla military base is the site mentioned the most frequently now. This is where the Regional Military Training Center now functions under U.S. Administration.

As Honduran labor organizations have said, it does not matter where the School of the Americas is located. It does not matter if it is in Aguacate or Puerto Castilla.

What matters is the nefarious role which that center would have, not only with regard to the future policy of Honduras, a country virtually mortgaged to foreign capital, but to all the countries of Central America, as well.

The labor organizations mentioned above agreed that even without the School of the Americas, Honduras is currently a large U.S. military base that Washington uses against the revolutionary movements in the area and the Sandinist revolution of Nicaragua. If we include this school, there will not be a single inch of national territory that will not be used by the U.S. Army to the detriment of the hundreds of thousands of landless peasants and Honduras' tottering economy.

'OUR AMERICA' TERMS CHILEAN REGIME 'REPRESSIVE'

PA170321 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 16 Jan 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] When you analyze the Chilean regime's current situation, you come to the conclusion that it would be hard to find a more obvious case of political blindness and sterile stubbornness in all Latin America. For General Augusto Pinochet, 1984 was the worst of his 11 years as dictator of Chile; however, he has decided to close his eyes to the truth and stay in power against all odds. Problems for the head of the Chilean regime started early this year; these problems are a continuation of what marked, in 1983 and 1984, the awakening and spontaneous reaction of an opposition which has decided to take part in the country's destiny.

The disappearances of people, a sinister method used by the Argentine and Uruguayan military regimes, has also provoked anguish and despair in Chile among those who have relatives in this situation. This includes banishing people to barren regions. An organization of missing and arrested people's relatives recently reported in Chile that since the 1973 coup d'etat approximately 3,000 people arrested by the repressive corps have disappeared without a trace. It is appropriate to mention the statements issued by a former Chilean Air Force secret service agent, Andres Valenzuela Morales, who revealed that most of the arrested people are now dead. His statements, recently published by a newspaper in Caracas, provided details about the torture and murder of arrested people, mostly leftist opposition leaders.

Chilean Catholic Church spokesman said that the information offered by the former agent was compared with their files and confirmed as true. Therefore, the church requested the appointment of a special judge and the reopening of the cases. This request was supported by the missing people's relatives. The request was rejected by the Supreme Court of Justice, so the missing people's relatives decided to hold a demonstration in front of the court building and demand information about their relatives. The Carabineros attacked the demonstrators with their usual ferociousness, wounding several and arresting approximately 10 persons. The repressive agents' violence against the people assembled in front of the Supreme Court of Justice was similar to that of other contingents, which started an operation to locate the authors of an attack which inflicted considerable damage to the luxurious Sheraton Hotel in Santiago.

Thus, a new year has begun in Chile; a new year in which the governing team, led by General Pinochet, uses its violent policy to silence national protests and demands for a return to a democratic system.

The violent reality, which is proved by the tens of thousands of exiled Chilean citizens, national jails crammed with prisoners, disappearance and death of many opponents, and the banishment of citizens to barren regions in the country, is worsened by a chaotic economic situation due to the failure of the emissaries inspired in the Chicago School, a favorite U.S. style, which was followed by the regime's specialists.

Despite the harsh internal and external criticism, the Chilean regime decided to continue enforcing the state of siege and strict censorship. Meanwhile, the dictator avails himself of any opportunity to reiterate that he will remain in power until 1989. In his eagerness to stay in power, Augusto Pinochet is unaware of the solitude surrounding him, isolation which is increasingly evident due to the anachronism of such a dictatorship, in a region where military regimes; Argentine, Uruguayan, Bolivian, and Brazilian, have started to return to the garrisons or will do so in the near future.

FLAVIO BRAVO MEETS WITH BRITAIN'S TEMPLE MORRIS

FL250144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], met today in this capital with (Peter Temple Morris), leader of the British interparliamentary group and Conservative Party member of Parliament, who is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the ANPP.

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER CABRISAS VISITS MOSCOW

For reports on the meetings in Moscow between Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and N.S. Patolichev, Soviet foreign trade minister, and M.A. Sergeychik, Soviet chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 25 January issue of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

EDUCATION MINISTER FERNANDEZ VISITS HUNGARY

For Hungarian coverage of the visit to Hungary by Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez Alvarez, including his meeting with Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Jozsef Marjai, see the Hungary section of the 24 January Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MELLA MEDAL BESTOWED ON CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIAL

FL241734 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Julio Antonio Mella Medal, granted by the Council of State, has been bestowed upon Jaroslav Jeneral, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, in a formal ceremony held in Havana. The medal was given to Jeneral, who is also chairman of the Czechoslovak Socialist Union of Youth, in response to a request made by Cuba's Union of Young Communists [UJC]. Carlos Lage, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the UJC, read the resolution awarding him the medal and pinned the medal on the Czechoslovak official's chest.

NEW TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH BULGARIA

FL250156 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The 1985 Cuban-Bulgarian trade protocol provides for bilateral trade amounting to R320 million [as heard]. The protocol was signed this afternoon by the Cuban and Bulgarian vice ministers of foreign trade, Miguel A. Castillo and Marin Marinov, respectively. In this trade, our country will receive machinery, fertilizers, rolled steel, food products, and so on, and will export sugar, copper, nickel, citrus fruits, liquors, and other articles.

URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST LEADER ON CASTRO SPEECH

PA172358 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Interview with Eduardo (Viera), member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Uruguay and representative of that party to the inauguration of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, in Managua; date not given; interviewer not identified -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] We would like you to comment on the effect of Commander Fidel Castro's speech during the inauguration of the Victoria de Julio sugar mill.

[Viera] It is always extraordinary to listen to Fidel Castro, but this speech was truly great. It was the voice of Latin America; first, because of the evaluation Castro made of the revolution and the [word indistinct] process; second, because of the way he discussed the problems of Latin America as to the need to achieve peace and solve economic problems' and finally, because of the way he once again unmasked U.S. policy. Not only did he explain the well-known and traditional Cuban stance regarding foreign debts, but also took a specific step in the solidarity that Cuba has always made evident to other countries, particularly solidarity with Nicaragua when he donated [words indistinct].

[Question] How do you view the chances for an opening of relations between Cuba and Uruguay?

[Viera] The Uruguayan people have always had extraordinarily solidarity with Cuba and the break in relations was repudiated by the majority of people. I think that with the new democratic perspective present in Uruguay, one of the steps that must be taken is the resumption of relations with Cuba. Uruguay needs a foreign policy of peace and one which is independent. This cannot be conceived without relations with Cuba. We know of the pressures by the president-elect, who wants to normalize relations with Cuba. I am optimistic about that and it -- the resumption of relations with Cuba -- undoubtedly will be a demand of the Broad Front and the Communist Party, which was represented at this event, as one of the main aspects of Uruguay's independence.

BRAZILIAN BUSINESSMEN WANT TO REESTABLISH TRADE

PA241839 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Rui Barreto, president of the Brazilian National Confederation of Commerce, met in Brasilia with President-elect Tancredo Neves to request the reestablishment of commercial relations with Cuba. Barreto, who 2 years ago tried to establish direct commercial ties between Cuban and Brazilian companies, said after the meeting: The more countries we trade with, the better the results for Brazil.

DEL VALLE ANNOUNCES INFANT MORTALITY RATE DROP

FL231248 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Last year, an infant mortality rate of 15 per 1,000 live births, the lowest in Cuba's history, was attained. This announcement was made in Cienfuegos by Dr Sergio del Valle, Politburo member and public health minister.

That rate places Cuba among the 15 nations in the world with the lowest infant mortality, according to Del Valle, who was speaking at a meeting to examine the health sector in Cienfuegos. The public health minister said: We will not be satisfied with that figure because our goal is to continue decreasing the infant mortality rate until it is below 10 per 1,000 live births.

GARCIA FRIAS PRESIDES OVER ECONOMIC MEETING

FL220022 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, Politburo member of the party's Central Committee and minister of transportation, has presided over a meeting held to study the measures which will guarantee attaining the forecasted economic objectives for 1985 in the port, transport, domestic, and economic activities of Havana city.

Garcia Frias said that there were some organizations which take from the ports only the most necessary goods, without worrying about other goods which are also theirs, creating a situation where at present there are 92,570 tons belonging to Havana alone.

At the meeting, it was reported that removal obligations have been contracted by the following organs: Ministry of Transportation, 10,495 tons; State Committee for Material and Technical Supply [CEATM], 525; Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, 120; Ministry of Domestic Trade, 75; Ministry of Light Industry, 60; Ministry of Food Industry, 150; Ministry of the Sugar Industry, 400; Ministry of Construction, 400; and the People's Government, 175; which brings the total removal to more than 12,000 tons.

Also presiding over the meeting were Pedro Ross, alternate Central Committee member and chief of the department of transportation and communications of that organ, Aldo Alvarez, member of the executive bureau of the party in Havana city, and other party and administrative leaders of entities represented in the port, transport, domestic, and economy chain in Havana.

COMMENTARY PRAISES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PA241929 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Cuba plans to increase its overall social product by no less than 4.5 percent during 1985, thus continuing to improve its economy, despite the difficulties caused by the U.S. blockade and the extremely low sugar prices that currently prevail in the world market.

Last year our country increased by almost 7.5 percent its overall social product, thus exceeding the plans for that period by 2.5 percent. A few days after learning all these data at the National Assembly of the People's Government, which held sessions late last year in Havana, ECLA announced in Buenos Aires that Cuba had recorded the largest regional increase in its GNP, or overall social product per inhabitant, from 1981 to 1984, with an exceptional rate of 22.6 percent. In its preliminary annual report for 1984, the ECLA added that our country's achievement had been much better than those of the other Latin American nations, as the accumulated growth had totaled almost 25 percent. According to the commentaries of various specialists who live in Santiago, Chile, where the ECLA has its headquarters, the per capita product in Latin America was almost 9 percent lower in 1984 than in 1980, and similar to that achieved by the region in 1976.

The ECLA report stresses that Latin America's GNP increased only 1.7 percent in 1981, declined 1 percent the next year, dropped to slightly over 3 percent in 1983, and recovered in 1984 by only 2.6 percent. Despite the slight recovery last year, the total growth accumulated during those 4 years in Latin America was zero percent.

Cuba's economic successes last year came about despite the fact that the production plans for three of the most important productive sectors, the citrus, nickel, and sugar industries, were not fulfilled. In 1984, the sugar harvest totaled 8.2 million tons, about 600,000 tons less than had been expected.

This year the country plans to increase its economy with a smaller budget than the people's branches of power had requested and through the replacement of imports and the export of new products worth about $500 million, which will be destined to the area of convertible currency. A systematic campaign for conserving raw materials, especially oil, will also be launched. Last year, reduced oil consumption allowed Cuba to save about 700,000 tons of that product, more than had initially been foreseen, without substantially damaging the economy. There is an agreement with the Soviet Union under which all the oil we save can be exported and turned into convertible currency.

The single plan for economic and social development in 1985 gives first priority to exports and the replacement of imports which must be purchase with foreign currency, with domestic products. To this end, our products for international trade will be diversified and new factories will be constructed. Their production will be dedicated to these ends.

The second priority of this plan is the culmination of the big economic goals or at least their substantial advancement, including two nickel plants which will permit a production increase of 60,000 tons per year, and an electronuclear plant, which, once fully operative, will save us about 600,000 tons of oil annually.

A third priority is to achieve social objectives to benefit the population in the sectors of public health and research, among others.

During the discussion of these economic plans at the 10th Plenum of the Communist Party's Central Committee and at the National Assembly, it was stressed that this program must be implemented without affecting the Cuban people's current standard of living. It was even decided that some increases might even take place in many areas that concern the people directly. Suffice it to say that in 1985 some 40,000 new houses will be built in Cuba; the capacity of the children's day care centers, day schools and boarding schools, high schools and centers of higher education will be increased; beds in hospitals will increase by almost 4 percent; we will have a doctor for every 445 inhabitants; and the level of calories and protein consumed by each citizen, which is currently among the highest in Latin America, will be maintained.

UJC NATIONAL COMMITTEE SIXTH PLENUM CLOSES

FL241700 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Being aware that the year 2000 belongs to us and that we should begin getting ready, we the Cuban youth energetically support Fidel's call encouraging us to contribute to economic development.

This was said during the closing ceremony of the Sixth Plenum of the National Committee of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] held in Havana and chaired by Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Alternate Politburo member Antonio Perez Herrero.

The concluding remarks were made by Carlos Lage, Central Committee alternate member and first secretary of the UJC. Of the meeting's main resolutions, Lage stressed the quality and depth of the reports on the fulfillment of the technical economic plans by the grassroots organizations. Then, he pointed out the need to oppose those who distort the savings policy. He said the policy does not deal with reducing production or services in order to save but with saving in order to produce with quality and provide good service.

During the closing ceremony, the UJC first secretaries of each province, handed in the youth's pledges from their respective areas in salute to the party's third congress to be held this year.

LIGHT INDUSTRY EXPORTS TO INCREASE BY 4 PERCENT

FL191350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Cuba will increase its light industry exports by almost 4 percent this year compared with 1984. Minister of Light Industry Manuel Millares told the press in Camaguey Province that this production will reach some 72 million pesos. This figure does not include sectors used by third party export oriented organizations. Millares said the main thrust would come from the construction workers sector whose products will be detined primary toward foreign trade.

BRIEFS

NEW SIERRA LEONEAN AMBASSADOR -- Council of State Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has formally received Abdul G. Koroma, who presented his credentials as ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Foreign minister Isidoro Malmierca also participated in the ceremony. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Jan 85 FL]

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES FUEL PRICES INCREASE

FL241750 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] President Salvador Jorge Blanco has, as expected, announced an increase in the price of gasoline and other petroleum products. At the same time, though, Mr Jorge Blanco promised to propose laws to increase the salaries of public employees, including the military.

The price of a gallon of gasoline will increase from 2.95 pesos to 3.95 pesos, or in U.S. dollars, an increase from $0.99 to $1.22 per gallon.

EDUCATION MINISTER ON IMF STANDBY ACCORD

FL191728 Santo Domingo Radio Commercial Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Violent demonstrations will not change the signing of the standby accord between the government and the IMF said Ivelisse Prats de Perez today. The former president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party and current minister of education said that the Armed Forces and the national police have reiterated that they will confront those who disrupt public order. She added that the country's democratic system permits citizens to protest in a civilized manner, but at no time can they disrupt public order and peace.

The minister answered in this way on being asked about warnings the government had received from labor unions and political organizations about signing the standby accord with the IMF.

The Armed Forces and the national police have warned that they will not tolerate disruptive activities said Prats de Perez when interviewed by a radio station. She said she trusted that the Dominican people would accept without violent reaction economic politics the government will make after the signing of the IMF accord.

After stating that the government-IMF accord was necessary, Prats de Perez blamed the Reformist-Social Christian Party for having made this necessary.

The increase in the price of fuels is worldwide. In the past few days, Mexico, Venezuela, Haiti, Peru, El Salvador, Bolivia, Brazil, the United States, Jamaica, and many other countries have raised their prices, and this has been done before. The rise of fuel prices is worldwide. The crisis is not just local.

BARBADOS

FOREIGN DEBT REACHES $365.5 MILLION IN NOV 84

FL242206 Bridgetown CANA in English 2044 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 24, CANA — Barbados' external debt at the end of November stood at 365.5 million dollars (one Bds dollar: 50 cents U.S.), Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams told the House of Assembly.

According to Adams, about 162 million dollars is owed to international financial institutions, 40 million dollars in bonds to Trinidad and Tobago, 28 million dollars to Canada, four million dollars to Britain, and approximately 93 million dollars in Eurodollars.

DOMINICA

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON BANANA INDUSTRY PROBLEMS

FL221632 Bridgetown CANA in English 2054 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 21, CANA — The key but ailing Dominica banana industry is unable to provide a long-term credit to farmers for necessary inputs, Agriculture Minister Heskeith Alexander said today. Alexander speaking in parliament, blamed the development on mismanagement of the industry in the 1975-80 period.

Among the main difficulties faced by the industry during that period Alexander said were a leaf spot crisis, two hurricanes, and the reckless distribution of compensation payments in many cases to non-banana farmers and equally reckless pre-election (1970) pricing policy.

A combination of these left the corporation saddled with debts in excess of 21 million EC dollars (one EC dollar: 37 U.S. cents) which have now been reduced to 15 million EC dollars he told parliament.

Alexander said that it must be pointed out that because of the level of indebtedness of the industry, loans negotiations are extremely difficult and delicate, but that government was seeking assistance for the industry that accounts for 70 percent of the island's total foreign exchange earnings.

Alexander said that government's initiatives in seeking assistance for the industry are important given the fact that the future of the industry depends on the level of production and quality.

He said that the newly-formed Dominica Banana Corporation is pursuing negotiations to utilise funds from the Caribbean Development Bank totalling just over 2 million EC dollars to provide future credit to banana farmers here.

Alexander identified the drop in the pound sterling — the currency in which bananas on the main United Kingdom market are sold — as the single most important problem adversely affecting the banana industry. Alexander said that in 1981 the value of the pound sterling here was over six EC dollars but that it had now reached an all time low of nearly three EC dollars.

MATTHEW JOSEPH NAMED OPPOSITION LEADER

FL242250 Bridgetown CANA in English 2201 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 24, CANA -- In a surprise appointment, Carib descendant Matthew Joseph was today named leader of the opposition in the Dominica parliament, less than 24 hours after it was reported that he supported the candidacy of political colleague and former Finance Minister Michael Douglas.

An official statement issued by the office of President Clarence Seignoret and released by the Government Information Service said that the appointment of Joseph, 35, to fill the four year old vacancy was effective from today.

Henry Dyer, second deputy leader of the newly-formed Labour Party of Dominica (LPD), a merger of two opposition parties, termed today's move a real mockery. He charged that Joseph had been forced to withdraw his support of Douglas, the political leader of the LPD, who has sought the top opposition job since the 1980 election left four opposition seats shared by the Democratic Labour Party which, together with the Domincia Labour Party, now forms the LPD, and two independents. [as received] Dyer, whose subsequent resignation from the Freedom Party pushed the opposition MPs to five, did not elaborate.

Earlier this week, a letter signed by the three LPD members, Douglas, Dyer, and Joseph had been sent to President Clarence Seignoret naming Douglas as the opposition member able to command the majority on the opposition benches.

But today Jenner Armour said that he and the other independent MP Conrad Cyprus, had expressed backing for Joseph, who comes from the rural village of Salybia, home of Dominica's indigenous Caribs. I think he deserves it...he is very constructive in his criticism, Armour told CANA adding: I have a lot of respect for him, I think the Carib people should be proud.

Joseph is a relative newcomer to the political scene, winning a seat in parliament for the first time in 1980 under a Democratic Labour Party ticket, Douglas was the other party.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR WAGE DECREASE

FL241952 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Dutch Government will only give extra aid to the Netherlands Antilles if the island group puts its house in order first. This has been announced by the leader of a Dutch parliamentary delegation visiting the Netherlands Antilles.

According to the delegation, it's essential that a general wage decrease is introduced in the island. If employers and trade unions fail to agree on such a measure voluntarily, the Antillean Government should step in and enforce it, if necessary, in combination with a devaluation of the Antillean currency.

According to the Dutch parliamentarians, the number of civil sevants and public sector workers should also be reduced.

The delegation returns home on Friday.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CUBA

FL242304 Bridgetown CANA in English 2206 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 24, CANA -- Guyana and Cuba have ended five days of talks here with the signing of an agreement for increased co-operation between the two countries, Minister of Health and Public Welfare Richard Van West-Charles said. The agreement was signed here on Tuesday following five days of talks between Guyana Government officials and a Cuban delegation headed by Agriculture Minister Adolfo

The Guyana minister said the discussion focussed on four specific areas -- agriculture and industrial co-operation, economic and technical co-operation, barter trade, and a line of credit. The talks went very well, Van West-Charles said. He added that there has been an increase in programmes, especially in agriculture and health. There was a general agreement for the development of a number of projects within the areas of agriculture this year. To this end, a Cuban team is expected here within the next month to fully work out the projects with their Guyanese counterparts. Van West-Charles said that the projects will deal with agriculture, citrus and the pig industry.

The Guyana health minister said that this country is expected to send about 12 teachers to Cuba later this year to teach English at the higher level. In the area of health, Van West-Charles said both countries had increased the provisions of the existing agreement. This year, Guyana will have a school for medicine opening in September. It will offer post graduate training in obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, medicine, and pediatrics, Van West-Charles said.

OVER 1,000 RETURN AFTER DEPORTATION BY SURINAME

FL242116 Bridgetown CANA in English 1927 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 24, CANA -- Guyana said today more than 1,000 of its citizens had been deported from neighbouring Suriname within the last 48 hours, following a Paramaribo crack down on illegal aliens. The deportees returned to Port Springlands, east of Georgetown, via Nickerie, by special launches, a senior government official here said. Many whose passports were stamped with red were banned from re-entering the country for 12 months and others were banned for six months, the official said. Another 750 Guyanese who have been living and working in Suriname for several years are now awaiting transportation back home, he added.

He said the Suriname authorities had pointed to its regulations, which demand that all foreigners living and working in the country be registered and have work permits. Suriname claimed many aliens had failed to comply with the procedures and therefore [were] ordered to leave the country, the official said.

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS WITH IMF

FL221800 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 22 Jan 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 22, CANA -- Guyana says that despite its efforts to clear 31.7 million dollars (U.S.) in outstanding debt with the International Monetary Fund [IMF], the country may find itself at least temporarily ineligible for much-needed additional IMF balance of payments assistance.

Finance Minister Carl Greenidge spelt out the problem in parliament here as financially beleaguered Guyana continued dialogue with the Washington-based financial institution for at least 150 million dollars (U.S.) in fresh aid. He said that government had offered to pay-off all but nine million dollars of the debt from a previous agreement, but the IMF board was preparing to meet next month to consider declaring Guyana ineligible and giving publicity to Guyana's case on the basis that Guyana's efforts at payment are inadequate.

Greenidge also said that since May 1983 Guyana had fallen in arrears with respect to its repayment to the IMF, but that strenuous efforts were made to correct the situation. Between June and December 1984, he said, we disbursed 63 percent of our total foreign exchange earnings on debt servicing 28 percent going to the fund. In spite of these efforts, by the end of 1984, we were still in arrears to the fund by about SDR (special drawing rights) 14.75 million, even though we had reduced the rate of increase of indebtedness. Greenidge said the government deemed such a move correct because it is our debt and we are obligated to pay and secondly, the rules of the fund make us ineligible to draw on its ordinary resources and unable to formally negotiate a programme while we are in arrears. In May of 1984, he said the fund team had indicated that were we somehow to find the resources to pay off the arrears and to remain current, thereby allowing the restart of formal negotiations towards a programme, it was not likely that programme could be concluded before September 1985. The finance minister said Guyana was therefore advised that it would be prudent for us to assume that financial resources from the fund would not be available in the near future. Of the 77.5 million dollars (U.S.) which we expect to earn in available net hard currency receipts during 1985, we have offered to pay 25 million dollars (U.S.) or about one-third to the fund, our largest creditor, for whom we will have 31.7 million dollars falling due. This tactic will leave an amount of 9 (correct) million dollars (U.S.) of debt to be repaid to the fund in 1986.

Greenidge said during November 1983, a Guyana team held detailed discussions Washington with the IMF and since then it was estimated that Guyana needed some 150 to 200 million dollars (U.S.) on concessionary flows to restore external balances and put the economy back on its feet. At the time this analysis was proferred it was realised that sources of this magnitude of inflows could not have been identified. Indeed, only 95 million dollars (U.S.) appeared possible from multilateral institutions. The fund itself, constrained by its lending rules, related to the size of Guyana's quota, could offer net in flows of no more than 32 million dollars (U.S.), Greenidge said. The minister said the IMF called for a contraction of imports, but the size of the financial assistance which appeared possible could not compensate for the import cut required by the funds proposed programme. Furthermore, Greenidge said, since Guyana's capacity to repay any amounts borrowed had to come from increased production and exports, and since these increase themselves required imported inputs which were already scarce, we were faced with an internally inconsistent set of proposals.

Switching the discussions to the need for structural changes to correct the fundamental weaknesses of the Guyana economy does not resolve this inconsistency, Greenidge contended, adding that this glaring inconsistency persisted, and its persistence has had predictable results via our growing incapacity to service debt as payments become due, given that the debt servicing is to be by the conventional rules of cash payment, he said. It is our understanding, that despite these efforts in these circumstances, the board of the fund is scheduled to meet in February, to consider declaring Guyana ineligible and giving publicity to Guyana's case, on the basis that Guyana's efforts at payment are inadequate, Greenidge said.

Quoting he said from one Paulus Kruger, the Boer leader in 1899, the minister declared: They asked for my trousers, and I have given them: For my coat, I have given that also, now they want my life, and that I cannot give.

OPPOSITION LEADER REPORTS $1 MILLION ARMS DEAL

PM181030 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 8 Jan 85 p 4

[Unattributed report: "China A. Sen: Suriname Bought Arms Worth $1 Million From Belgium"]

[Text] Amsterdam, 8 Jan -- Suriname has bought arms and ammunition worth around $1 million from Belgian arms manufacturer Fabrique Nationale (FN) in Herstel, former President China A. Sen, chairman of the Council for Liberation of Suriname, has announced.

The Council for the Liberation of Suriname seems to be in possession of copies of import licenses totaling $1.1 million granted in Paramaribo on 19 October 1984. The arms will be delivered, it appears from the import licenses, via the London firm of Marlian Ltd. The licenses, necessary because of Suriname's shortage of foreign currency, state that the arms were manufactured in Argentina. However, according to arms experts the types of arms mentioned in the licenses make it clear that they were manufactured by the Belgian FN firm. It appears that the import licenses were requested by the head of the responsible section of the Surinamese Army, Ensign A. Ramdjielal, and payment was to take place through the Hakrin Bank in Paramaribo.

According to China A. Sen the Surinamese regime used the ploy that the arms were produced in Argentina to prevent the Belgian Government from interfering in the arms consignment. According to Surinamese military experts, the arms purchase corresponds to an order with the Surinamese Army placed with FN in April 1982. At the time experts from the Belgian firm traveled to Suriname and the weapons were tested. However, delivery never took place.

The purchase covers, for instance, machine guns of the MS QCB type with spare parts and mounts ($410,590), M3 machine guns ($66,360) and heavy machine guns to be fitted to the four aircraft of the Surinamese air force ($453,969), and electronic targeting devices. The arms are to arrive in Suriname this spring.

Last year Suriname had already bought arms and vehicles from Brazil worth 5 million guilders. Later a further 16 Brazilian tanks were purchased for an undisclosed figure.

GUYANESE AMONG 5,000 ILLEGAL ALIENS DEPORTED

PA250251 Paris AFP in Spanish 0225 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Hague, 24 Jan (AFP) -- The Netherlands News Agency ANP citing the Suriname Police from Paramaribo, said today that Suriname expelled about 5,000 illegal aliens this week. According to the source, about 80 percent of those expelled were Guyanese, and about 12 percent Haitians. The rest of them were mostly Chinese.